



Dancers' Career Development A Handbook



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Dancers' Career Development (DCD) has been supporting professional dance for over 30 years. We help dancers to make the often-difficult transition from professional dancing to a new career by giving them the confidence and skills they need to keep working beyond dance.

Dancing is more than just a job. For a professional dancer, her or his career goes far beyond work and can define lives. Yet the physical pressures and intensity of dance can also make it an erratic and relatively short career.

Many dancers don't think about what happens when dancing ends, and can be deeply affected by the sudden gap in their lives. Where there is insecurity and doubt, we provide confidential and individual tailored support, practical advice, financial grants and a smooth transition to the post-performing stage of their careers.

We also aim to raise awareness of this important but often overlooked aspect of professional dance careers, and inform people about the work we do through school and company presentations, workshops and conferences.

Contents

4 Can DCD help me?

10 What does DCD offer?

14 What should I do now?

16 About DCD

20 Supporting DCD

22 Access & Learning Support



Can DCD help me?

DCD provides guidance to all professional dancers in the UK, whatever their background:

- Company dancers
- Independent dancers
- Ethnic & Folk dancers
- Musical Theatre dancers
- Commercial dancers
- Small and medium scale company dancers
- Film/TV & Music Video dancers
- Cruise ships dancers

“The dancer’s earnings are generally the lowest, the span of years during which he can find employment is typically the shortest, and his employment is generally the most uncertain, his working conditions are often the worst among the performing arts.”

William J. Baumol & William Bowen
Performing Arts: The Economic Dilemma



Something for everyone

Our careers service is open to all professional dancers at any stage of their career. Whether they are working in, or training in professional dance, or have already retired from active dancing, it is never too early or too late to start thinking about how to manage what comes after performing.

We provide confidential, individually tailored and specialist advice on how to plan and organise professional dancing careers and to prepare for a successful and satisfying career beyond dancing.

All of DCD's services are dancer driven and we understand that there is no "one-fits-all" approach to career transitions. DCD offers dancers the opportunity to individually choose the level of retraining support they require.

All practical, educational and emotional support services offered by DCD are free of charge and accessible for all dancers in the United Kingdom. However, to become eligible for funding from either the Independent Division or Company Division of DCD dancers have to fulfil a set of criteria:

Company dancers

Our Company Fund enables us to offer support to professional dancers who have worked with companies contributing to DCD. To become eligible for grant assistance under this scheme you must have been a professional dancer for a minimum of eight years and spent at least five of those years with one or more of the following companies:

- Birmingham Royal Ballet
- English National Ballet
- Northern Ballet Theatre
- Phoenix Dance Theatre
- Rambert Dance Company
- Richard Alston Dance Company
- Scottish Ballet
- Siobhan Davies Dance Company
- The Royal Ballet

We continuously encourage new companies to join the scheme. If dancers are unsure whether their company is a member of DCD or wish to receive more information on how a company can join the Fund please contact the DCD office.

Independent Dancers

Our Independent Division offers guidance and financial support to help all dancers to develop new skills, or even start up a new business.

To qualify for financial grants in this category applicants must have:

- Been working as a professional dancer for a minimum of eight years
- Worked at least five of those years in the UK
- Worked for at least four months during each of the last three years of employment

Retirement on medical grounds

Should dancers have been unable to meet the above criteria for the Independent or Company Division of DCD because they have been forced to retire due to illness or injury, we may still be able to help. Contact us for more information.



What does DCD offer?

Emotional & Psychological Support

Our first service to professional dancers is specialised support and up-to-date understanding of the many issues affecting dancers' careers. The transition away from dancing can be difficult both financially and emotionally. We provide a wide range of confidential services to help them to find their feet in a new profession either inside or outside the dance industry.

- Confidential one-to-one counselling
- Networking with qualified individuals and counselling groups
- Life-coaching seminars



Educational & Practical Support

- Careers library & research
- Careers advice & coaching
- Psychometric testing
- Networking with other retrained dancers
- Referrals to other support organisations and welfare advisers

Workshop Programme

- Company workshops
- Professional Dance School Workshops
- CV & Interview guidance workshops
- Musical Theatre production outreach programme

Re-training Grants

Dancers may choose to transfer their skills to another area of dance, or pursue a different career altogether. Whether their goal is to become an artistic director or an architect, we can give the guidance and financial support to gain the skills required for a successful and satisfying career path.

- Course & training fees
- Equipment
- Maintenance
- Travel costs
- Child care costs

New business grants

Some dancers may want to set up their own businesses. We can help to overcome many of the obstacles of establishing and running new businesses, by giving advice, offering networking opportunities and start-up grants.

What should I do now?

Come and see us

You are welcome to visit our London office for informal advice or to take advantage of our services. We recommend that you phone or email ahead for an appointment, so that you can be certain of seeing the person most able to help you.

In your area

We run several regional workshops around the country, so even if you can't get to our office we may be able to arrange a chat with someone.

Telephone appointments

Phone or email us if you want to discuss any aspect of our service or your career. We can offer telephone appointments for support or advice.

Join our mailing list

We send regular newsletters and updates by post, and also offer an e-newsletter service by email. To subscribe to these services call 020 7404 6141 or email admin@thedcd.org.uk.

Applications for assistance

Application packs for the Independent Trust or the Company Fund can be sent out via post or downloaded from our website at www.thedcd.org.uk.



About DCD

For dancers

At DCD we are committed to providing a wide range of independent and free services to professional dancers at every stage of their dancing careers. Any contact with us will be treated in the strictest confidence. Our support system is flexible and can be adapted to each individual's needs and wishes. This tailored approach has already successfully supported thousands of dancers to make the difficult transition from dance to professions ranging from Accountancy to Zoology. All dancers have many essential transferable skills to succeed in any career they wish to follow and 92% of all dancers retrained with guidance and support from DCD are currently still working in the post performing career they chose.

For dance

Our services allow dancers to find new skills and contribute back to the world of dance. By investing in dancers, we help them to transfer essential skills to the various supporting roles in dance and often prolong dancing careers by helping dancers to add meaningful and accredited skills to find employment alongside freelance dancing.

Our alumni include many executive and teaching staff members in the UK's leading dance companies and schools, as well as choreographers, designers, photographers and many other professions directly or indirectly contributing to the UK dance industry.

For society

Whilst many dancers remain a part of the dance world throughout their careers others decide to move into a different profession altogether. Furthermore our alumni include hundreds of career choices. Retrained dancers have been shown to become exceptional graduates, sought after employees and often founders and managers of successful, new businesses, generating employment. For more information on DCD's 'Retrained Dancers Directory' contact the DCD office.

Raising awareness

Research has shown that the key ingredient to a successful and un-traumatic transition from one career to another is preparedness for change and awareness of opportunities available. To reach out to all dancers and dance students in the UK we run workshops for dance schools, companies, independent and Musical Theatre dancers to explain our work and provide advice long before the need for re-orientation arises. If you want to arrange or attend a workshop in your area, company, school or production, please contact us.

International work

DCD is a founding member of the International Organisation for the Transition of Professional Dancers (IOTPD). The IOTPD works to provide a support system to dancers working worldwide, to help setting up other national transition centres, and to generate public awareness through publications, research and international conferences. Please contact the office to learn more.



Supporting DCD

DCD enables dancers to successfully develop their professional careers beyond physical dance. The Company Division is funded through annual contributions from the currently nine companies subscribing to the scheme. The Independent Division however relies heavily on contributions from organisations, foundations, corporations and individuals who provide its sole funding. By contributing to our work, you can make a crucial investment in dancers and the dance industry.

Individual Legacies & Donations

Individual donations and legacies provide essential long-term financial support for our work. Please consider setting up a legacy or make provisions in your will to leave a lasting contribution to dance. We welcome any anonymous or named contribution you may wish to make. Named DCD bursaries currently include the Lesley Edwards Bursary, the Matthew Winston Bursary and the Maude Lloyd and Rudolf Nureyev Bursary (for a complete list and information on how to apply please contact DCD).

Dancers' Scholarships and Bursaries

If you have access to scholarships or training bursaries from training providers we would be delighted to hear from you.

Supporters

The Independent Division could not exist without support from organisations and individuals who believe in our work and contribute generously. The Trust is grateful to receive vital annual contributions from Equity, Equity Trust Fund, the Combined Theatrical Charities, the Society of London Theatre, CHK Charities, the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation and many other Trusts and Foundations. This leaflet was funded by a grant from the Regional Arts Lottery Programme

If you wish to learn more or receive an application for funding from DCD, whether for dancers' grants or project funding, please do contact the DCD or email admin@thedcd.org.uk.

Access & Learning Support

Disabled access

DCD's offices are wheelchair accessible by arrangement. Please contact us if you have any special requirements and we will ensure that your visit is easy and enjoyable. We regret that there is no disabled toilet available at our offices.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to treating all of our clients and staff with respect, and welcome dancers from all dance forms regardless of ethnic origin, religious beliefs, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.

Learning Support

Our staff are committed and trained to support all dancers' retraining projects. We understand that everyone's ability to learn new skills is different and some dancers might require additional learning support.

Please contact us for a confidential conversation about any additional support needs you may have. If you have, or think you have dyslexia or any other learning difficulty, we can provide targeted help and advice.

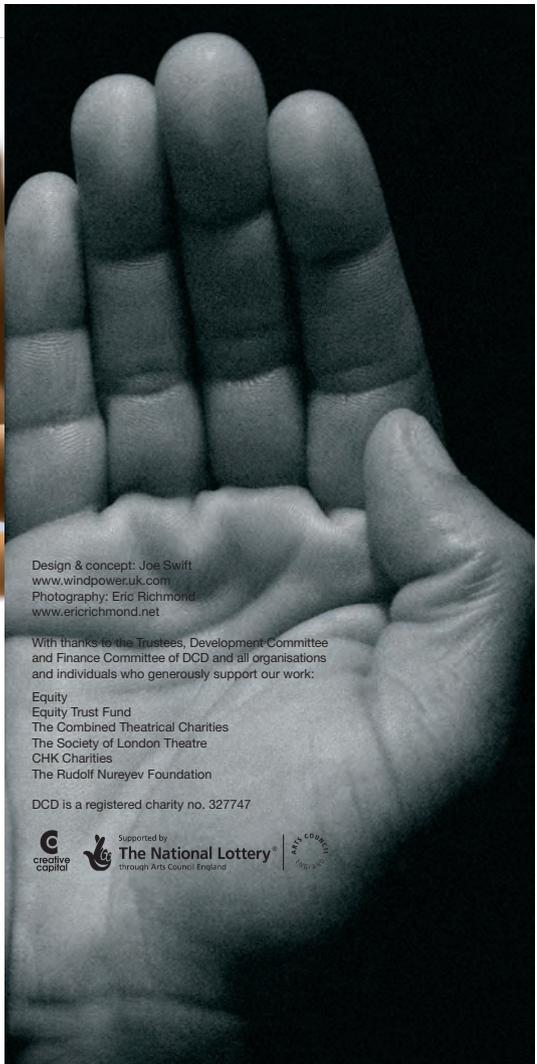
If you would like to order a copy of this leaflet in large print or as an audio tape please contact us.





"We applaud the work of organisations such as Dancers' Career Development that re-trains professional dancers by building on distinctive strengths and transferable skills gained from dancers' performing experience. We believe that it is important for the dance sector to continue to give support and help to those dancers who find themselves unable to continue performing, for whatever reason."

House of Commons
Culture Media and Sport Committee, 2004



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Equity
Equity Trust Fund
The Combined Theatrical Charities
The Society of London Theatre
CHK Charities
The Rudolf Nureyev Foundation

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