

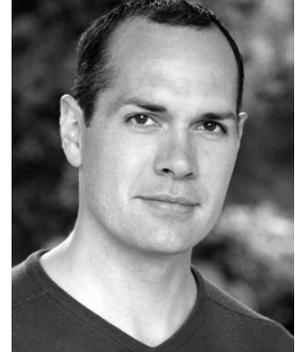


Dancers' Career Development Bursary Recipient Profile

Name: Spencer Soloman

DCD Bursary received: Wallace Potts Bursary recipient 2008

Previous occupation: Trained at the Royal Ballet School. On leaving college Spencer joined the Birmingham Royal Ballet and enjoyed a career working in many ballet companies in France, Germany and Switzerland as a soloist. He then spent 10 years working in West End Musicals, first as a performer and later moving into Choreography and Directing. Shows included *Chicago, Guys and Dolls, On Your Toes, Contact, Parade, Candide, Pardon My English (Broadway) and Hairspray.*



Retraining: Spencer felt after sustaining injuries throughout his career and along with the insecurity of the theatre business that he needed to think of a career change and that it might be wise to move into a steady and more reliable job and was very interested in the media and TV sector, in particular the work of a cameraman.

'The dance world hasn't left me yet' Spencer Soloman

How did you find out about the DCD Bursaries and why did you apply?

I found out about the DCD Bursary through my sister who had also been a DCD recipient. I was very interested in camera work and so put together a business plan.

What has been the best thing to come out of the Bursary so far?

Receiving the Bursary enabled me to purchase equipment that was necessary for me to work, including a computer to assist in creating and editing short videos allowing me to open my own business producing videos for websites. However, the biggest thing to come out of receiving the Bursary for me was being able to go on a 'Steadicam' course. This was a week long intensive course and gave me the knowledge and skills to confidently work in many different genres of media T.V, Film, Pop Video and Sport. It is specialized, versatile and an imperative qualification to have.

'Be passionate in your application and find out as much as you can about the world you want to become a part of' Spencer Soloman

What is your advice for people applying for the 2010 Special Bursaries?

The advice I would give to those applying for the DCD Bursaries is to be passionate about your goals and try to show that in your application. Also find out as much as you can about the world you want to become a part of. Writing this information up in the Bursary application form really helped me to focus on what I wanted to do and being able to be clear and concise in the form is definitely an advantage.



What's next?

I have completed between 25-30 projects as a Camera Assistant and a Cameraman and have worked for BBC1,2 and 3, ITV, Channel 4, MTV. I have worked on a range of diverse projects such as The BAFTA's, Royal Variety Performance, The Rise And Fall Of Reginald Perrin, My Family, Britons Best Dish and Comic Relief. I haven't completely left the dance world, I still teach Musical Theatre. However, without the help I received from DCD in receiving the Wallace Potts Bursary, I would never have been able to achieve my goal to become a camera man, a job which I thoroughly enjoy.

<http://www.pureimageproductions.com/index.html>