

THE NEXT STEP: SEMINAR NOTES

Based on the book "Dance: Are You Ready For the Next Step?" available on Amazon.

Facebook: Jill Ann Wolins

Instagram: JillWolins33

Twitter: @jillwolins

TRANSITIONS

Exploring ideas for the future via workshops and summer intensives helps decision making. It also creates smooth transitions to the next level of a dancer's life. This may include college, the professionals world, and/or a move to a new city.

Pictures and Resumés- Age Appropriate, Up to Date, Clear 3 Column Format

Summer Programs

Make note that most ballet companies and schools hold summer dance and ballet intensives. Some ballet summer programs include Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet, The Rock School, Miami City Ballet, American Ballet Theater, School of American Ballet, and the Suzanne Farrell Summer Intensive at the Kennedy Center, DC.

*** American Dance Festival (www.americandancefestival.org)

The American Dance Festival (ADF), founded in 1930, hosts numerous educational programs on the east and west coasts. The six week international summer program held at Duke University in NC is ideal for high school students, college students, and also professionals. Numerous renown modern and contemporary companies perform, set up residency, or hold workshops. See website for scholarship and Internship information. Scholarships available.

*** Jacob's Pillow (www.jacobspillow.org)

Founded in 1933. With headquarters in Becket, Massachusetts, "the Pillow" hosts year round workshops. Offers numerous intensives in many forms of dance. Numerous renown modern and Contemporary companies perform, set up residency, or hold workshops.

*** Bates Dance Festival (www.batesdancefestival.org)

This international dance festival, est. 1983, hosts workshops in Lewiston, Maine. Bates Dance Festival (BDF) holds professional training programs and young dancers workshops, while offering teacher fellowships and internships. The atmosphere fosters and exchange of creative ideas and encourages growth of students as artists.

*** American College Dance Festival Association (www.acdfa.org) now known as American College Dance Association (www.acda.dance)

ACDA is an association of students, teachers, artists, and scholars who work together to further college and university dance education in all capacities. See the website for all workshop, conference, competition, festival, and internship information. ACDA includes all things dance in higher education.

*** New York City Dance Alliance Summer Intensive

(www.nycdance.com/Summer_Intensive/Program_details.aspx)

NYCDA offers a unique summer program in New York City as students meet and work with the industries top professionals. Students make connections, take technique classes, enjoy industry seminars, and work with an actual Broadway musical director. Students get to see Broadway shows, and have a performance at the end of the intensive. Scholarships available.

*** Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Program (www.theaileyschool.edu)

This NYC based program is hosted in the heart of the Theater District. Students are required to have at least three years of dance training to attend. The program offers advanced classes in technique, repertoire, and performance skills, and hosts other workshops. This program also offers performance opportunities. Scholarships available.

*** Joffrey Summer Programs and Intensives

(www.joffreyballetschool.com/summer-programs.html)

Offer summer intensives in numerous cities such as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Miami, and Dallas, to name just a few. Joffrey offers ballet intensives, but also, in select cities, offer jazz, Broadway, and tap. Renown and distinguished faculty works with the students of many ages and levels.

*** University of North Carolina School of the Arts (**www.uncsa.edu/summersession**)

Offers summer programs in Comprehensive Dance and Classical Ballet. Renown Faculty with professional backgrounds offer a wide range of classes. Scholarships available. Audition required.

(Later in the “Meet the Professionals” section, we meet Matthew Donnell, the director of UNCSCA children’s prep program. Matt discusses his path in the ballet world, through New York City, and back to UNCSCA).

*** Broadway Dance Center

(www.broadwaydancecenter.com/training/summer_pro_sem/index.shtml)

The BDC summer professional semester is eight weeks in duration and focuses on the artistry and industry of dance. The program is well rounded and also included one on one counseling, and numerous industry related seminars. BDC also offers a year round work study program.

*** Steps on Broadway (**www.stepsnyc.com**)

Hosts open classes with the summer “Contemporary Masters Program.” 6-8 weeks in duration, professional companies host one week of classes each. Also, Steps offers a work study program, and a “Repertory Ensemble” Company as a pre-professional training program.

*** Peridance Capezio Center (**<http://www.peridance.com/summer-intensive.cfm>**)

Along with the professional level open class schedule, Peridance offers a three week summer intensive for dancers age 12-17. Located close to New York City’s Union Square, the center also hosts numerous workshops and seminars in dance and dance related subjects. The website also includes housing information.

*** Millennium Dance Complex (**www.millenniumdancecomplex.com**)

Los Angeles. Offers Dance intensives, training programs, and industry workshops. Housing information on website. Summer intensives can be as short as one week, or as long as nine weeks.

*** The Edge Performing Arts Center (**www.edgepac.com**)

Los Angeles. The Edge offers open classes for all levels in all styles. They offer three, week long, summer dance programs as well as a scholarship program for aspiring professionals.

*** Dancerpalooza (**www.dancerpalooza.com**)

Hosted by “Break the floor” productions, this one week summer dance intensive is held in Long Beach, CA. Numerous disciplines and styles are offered in classes, workshops, and seminars. This event also includes company performances and the expo center trade show.

*** World Dance Movement (**www.worlddancemovement.com**)

The premiere international workshops and events are proud to be “bridging cultures through dance.” If you are interested in traveling internationally, and wish to have the structure of a planned workshop, this is your first internet stop.

*** American Musical and Dramatic Academy (**www.amda.edu/high-school-summer-program/**)

Ideal for high school students that may be interested in attending the Academy, AMDA offers summer programs in both New York and Los Angeles.

*** Dance Masters of America (www.dancemastersofamerica.org)

Educational based organization offering numerous student and teacher workshops for members. DMA holds a national convention each summer, as well as their infamous Teacher's Training Program (TTS) and Students Honors Intensive Program (SHIP) which gives students to opportunity to perform at a major university.

*** Power Pak (www.powerpakdance.com)

Week long summer intensives in various cities. The Star Dance Alliance hosts this event, and brings renown faculty from around the country to hold classes in all disciplines. In addition to classes, seminars and repertoire rehearsals prepare students for end of week performance. Invitation only, through Star Dance Alliance events.

Looking For a College?

Questions to ask:

- * Is there diversity in the curriculum in terms of style and focus?
- * How are students placed in class levels?
- * What and how many levels exist?
- * How frequently do dance performance majors take technique classes?
- * How long are classes?
- * How many students in each class?
- * How often do students, including freshman, perform?
- * Does the program bring in guest artists to teach and set choreography?

* Dance Magazine College Guide

Undoubtedly, one of the best cyber tools for finding information about collegiate dance departments is through *Dance Magazine*. By logging onto www.dancemagazine.com/thecollegeguide, parents and potential students can find information on thousands of college and university dance departments, both nationally, and internationally. Along with word of mouth and personal recommendations, this will be an informative and useful tool in your search for the right dance department.

*** Dance Team- don't disregard! Some dance teams are strong, and may be similar to dance performed in studios today. Research on www.youtube.com.

*** BFA/BA Programs- some schools offer both, with just a few differences in requirements

BA

Can be considered a more general degree
Flexible for those considering additional Minors
Suitable for those considering Double Major
Can place emphasis on dance related subjects
Good for pursuing MA in areas other than Dance

BFA

Usually more specified program
Common for performance concentrations
Often conservatory type training
Suitable for those considering MFA

KEEP STRUCTURE OF LIFE AND TRAINING- Once you leave the studio or college, you no longer have the structure of regular class. Be disciplined and come up with a working plan.

AUDITIONS

***Backstage (www.backstage.com)

Currently is an online source to find auditions. Joining Backstage as a member has numerous benefits. Not only can one find casting notices from New York to Los Angeles, they can take advantage of a wide variety of resources including industry workshops, audition tips, news, reviews, and forums.

***Stage Door Connections (www.stagedoorconnections.com)

Stage Door Connections is an online source where members can find nationwide audition notices with casting profiles and other numerous resources useful for the professional performer. Stage Door Connections offers members access to a variety of valuable workshops led by the industry's current top leaders.

***Dance/USA (www.danceusa.org)

Dance/USA is a great resource, especially for those interested in Dance Companies. It is a not-for-profit membership organization serving nearly 500 aerial, ballet, modern, culturally specific, jazz and tap companies. This is a great source of information that includes a "National Company Roster," displaying a list of national dance companies and their annual budgets.

*** Answers 4 Dancers (www.answers4dancers.com)

Answers4Dancers is another great online, informational resource for "4D" members to find dance auditions, and more. They post a calendar with auditions in New York, Los Angeles, across America, and overseas.

***Dance Opportunities (www.danceopportunities.com) The Dance Opportunities website breaks dance auditions down into categories. They also have a section for dance teachers who are looking for job opportunity listings, as well as performers, and jobs in the Dance Arts.

*** Dance Plug (www.danceplug.com)

The Dance Plug website offers its members online classes and seminars, national and international audition and job listings, news, and industry "dish."

POTENTIAL EARNINGS FOR DANCERS

*Dance Companies: Understand how a not-for-profit organization is funded

A great source and wealth of information and knowledge to help understand which dance companies pay most favorably is Dance/USA (www.danceusa.org). The "Research and Information" drop down menu includes "The National Roster." This is a list of all known, nonprofit dance companies with annual budgets over \$100,000. A company's expenses reflect their ranking. This usually indicates to any web visitor the size of a company and its' productions. Last updated in 2012, the list includes 353 company listings. If one has questions regarding concert dance, Dance/USA is a great source and wealth of information.

*See union websites for rates

* Broadway roughly \$1,800 per week if full production Contract

* Disney \$579 per week

* SAG/AFTRA day rate about \$900 a day

* Cruise ships a bit less than Disney: maybe \$450 a week, but no living expenses (good for paying student loans)

* Recording artist tours make about the same as Broadway contracts

PERFORMERS' UNIONS

* Union vs/ Non-union: Possibly more non-union work. Some people just want to be dancing and working.

* Health Benefits, 401k, regulated working conditions

* Screen Actor's Guild, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

(www.sagaftra.org)

SAG and AFTRA were previously two different unions that merged in 2012. SAG is the union for screen actors/dancers in movies and commercials. AFTRA covers dancers/actors in union television appearances. All contract, residual, and membership information is available on the website.

* Actor's Equity Association (www.actorsequity.org)

"Equity" currently represents actors/dancers of the live theater. This would include Broadway shows, National Tours and Regional Theaters. Equity has a tier system organizing contracts. All contracts information is found on the website. The Equity website also posts all audition notices by region of the country.

* American Guild of Variety Artists (www.agvausa.com)

AGVA represents variety artists. The biggest show AGVA currently represents is The Radio City Christmas Spectacular. All dancers, actors, little people, and Rockettes sign AGVA Contracts.

* American Guild of Musical Artists (www.musicalartists.org)

AGMA covers dancers, although the title may suggest it may only cover musicians. Dancers in prestigious companies like New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theater, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater sign AGMA contracts.

*** Dancers' Alliance (www.dancersalliance.org)

Although dancers for recording and musical artists currently have no union, The Dancers' Alliance is working in that direction. Their mission is to be the unified voice of dancers and choreographers, and negotiate equitable rates and working conditions.

AGENTS

* 10%

* Do you need? Maybe not need, but helpful.

* How do you get?- Referrals (be smart), Auditions, Contract in Hand, Submissions

* See Book for On Camera class and workshop suggestions

* DO NOT pay money

WELL KNOWN AGENCIES

* McDonald Selznick Associates or MSA (www.msaagency.com)

* Clear Talent Group (www.cleartalentgroup.com)

* Cunningham, Escott, Slevin, and Doherty, or CESD (www.cesdtalent.com)

* Bloc Agency (www.blocagency.com)

* CGF Talent (www.cgftalent.com)

* The Movement- Dance Talent Agency (www.movement-agency.com)

* Go 2 Talent Agency

Commercial Workshops- Learn how conduct yourself in a commercial audition.

LA- Krater Studios (www.kraterstudios.com)

NY/LA— TVI Actors Studio (<http://www.tvistudios.com>)

NY- David Cady Workshops - (www.davidcady.com)

NY- (children) Joan Lynn Casting (www.actorsconnection.com/seminars/5097)

More Tools!

National Dance Education Organization

NDEO's mission statement includes "Advancing Dance Education in the Arts." Great for all interested in dance education. Especially great for college graduates. The "forum" includes many for college and university professor job listings, and where to submit. This organization

also hosts numerous workshops for dance educators from small business owners to college professors.

www.Theatreartlife.com

Another great resources for anyone in the arts nationally and internationally. A hub of information including articles and testimonies from working professionals in every aspect of the arts and entertainment. A few subjects may include dance, acting, singing, stage management, make-up artistry, Cirque Du Soleil performance, writing, and all elements of the technical theater,