

Auditions for courses – Dance

These tips are based on some of the common themes we hear about dance auditions. Use them as a guide to help you prepare for your auditions.

Choosing the right course

- When choosing where to apply don't be influenced by the course title or even an institution's reputation. Every course is different and you need to be honest with yourself about what you are looking for. Do your research and make sure you fully understand what work will be involved over the next few years.
- Be realistic about a career in dance and understand what other areas of opportunity a course can offer in terms of collaborative working, facilities, and connections to industry. A production involves many aspects of work so you should understand what is involved in productions and look to develop any relevant additional skills.
- Even though the process of auditioning can be expensive it is important, where possible, to attend auditions for the right courses and not just the cheapest. You will be investing time and money over the next few years so you need to ensure you are on the best course for you.
- Check how auditions are allocated. Some institutions offer auditions to all applicants whilst others only offer a limited number of places.

Before the audition

- Apply early, as you may miss an audition space if you apply later. After applying, you may be able to postpone the audition date if you don't feel ready.
- Contact the institution beforehand and ask about the structure of the audition as they vary greatly between institutions. Some auditions involve workshops, others solo performance, some are more technical, while others are more creative.
- Be aware of dress code as some institutions have strict requirements – others may be more flexible.
- Be ready to answer questions about your work and why you applied to the course. Why do you think you are suitable? Who has inspired you? What choreographers do you admire? What shows have you been to?
- Prepare some questions to engage with staff and student ambassadors - this will help you find out more about the college.
- In creative pieces avoid copying other people's style. They are interested in you and your ideas and creativity, not someone else's.

On the day

- Try to be relaxed and have fun. Your creativity will shine through and you'll show your talent in its best light.
- Take any interviews seriously - don't assume your ability alone will get you on to a course. You need to show you are able to work closely with the tutors and other students.
- Auditions often include written tasks - don't underestimate this. All courses have an academic element and they need to know you can cope with this as well as the physical demands of the course. This may come in the form of providing written answers to the interview questions or maybe writing a review of a particular dance.
- Take direction and written instruction wherever it's given - this is an essential skill tutors will be looking for.
- Above all, take care of the basics: get a good night's sleep; eat appropriately; get there in plenty of time so that you're relaxed when it comes to your turn; where possible prepare what you plan to do and stick to it, even if you think another candidate has a better approach.

Learn from each audition

Once you've got all the above sorted, believe in yourself - if you don't, no one else will. Remember to be positive and enthusiastic but be realistic too. You can learn a lot from an audition and even if it doesn't result in an offer it isn't necessarily a 'failed' audition - it's all good experience. Don't be afraid to ask for feedback as this will help you with future auditions.