

WORKING IN THEATRE: Dancer

Name: _____



Dancers are featured in plays and musicals as well as performance that blurs the line between theatre and dance. Professional dancers usually train for many years. Some specialize in only one form of dance, while others study and perform multiple styles. Dancers can be employed by one company and cast in multiple shows over a period of months or years. Usually, though, they are hired on a per-show basis as a contractor. Some dancers are also choreographers or dance captains.



UNFAMILIAR TERMS:

“TENACITY” The quality of being very determined.

Note to students: You'll get the most out of this video if you watch it twice. Watch it once, and then read the questions below before the second viewing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1 Compare your day to Anjali's. What activities does she do daily? Think about what your day might be like in the career of your choice and list four or five things you might do every day.

2 Anjali says you may or may not start out with physical attributes that will help you become a dancer, but that you can work hard to develop them. What physical attributes do you think dancers need?

3 Anjali attended ballet school for three years, doing “dance, dance, dance” for 12 hours a day. What other careers do you think require such intense, focused study?

4 Anjali says aspiring dancers need to figure if they can “get through it” as a dancer, not just physically, but also mentally. What do you think the mental challenges might be for a dancer or other performer?

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1 What can you identify with or what speaks strongly to you in the video?

2 Anjali emphasizes the physicality of dance. On a performance day, she warms up in a class and then again before going onstage. Describe the importance of “warming up” (physically or mentally) to perform a task. How do you “warm up” before doing something you enjoy?

3 Which do you enjoy more—physical activities or mental activities? Why?

4 Anjali says you can’t (or shouldn’t) be a dancer unless you love it. What activities, subjects, or pastimes are you most passionate about? Choose one of your passions and brainstorm careers that would allow you to follow that passion.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

1 Take the Career Path Quiz. First, answer the questions for yourself, and then take it a second time as you think a dancer might answer them. What conclusions can you draw about your interests?

2 Anjali has worked on several Matthew Bourne dance productions, including *The Red Shoes* and *Cinderella* at Center Theatre Group. Research Matthew Bourne as a choreographer and/or information about one of his productions. How would you describe his style, in your own words?

3 Research the Central School of Ballet in London (or another performing arts training school like Julliard, etc.). What are the entrance requirements? What type of degrees or certificates do they offer? How long is their program?

Visit [CTGLA.org/WorkingInTheatre](https://www.ctgla.org/WorkingInTheatre) and select “Dancer.”

“Professional dancers
usually train
for many years.”