



Choreographer

What is it?

Setting dance routines and movement for individuals, corps of dancers and/or full cast. Dancers and non dancers are worked with when choreographing.

Where do you start?

You are asked by the Director of show to choreograph all or part of the show, find out what music is being used (usually from the Musical Director), and let your imagination take over within the parameters laid down by the show and director.

What do you need to know?

Practical knowledge of dance and movement is very useful but not essential if you have some sense movement and musicality. Skills required vary depending upon what is required by the Director.

What skills would help?

Patience, confidence, the ability to work with a diverse range of people, and the ability to put together dances/movement for all abilities, Plus enthusiasm, adaptability and being able to think on your feet.

What help will I get?

Choreographers already in the Arts Centre are always available for advice or help, you only have to ask - even if it's just a different pair of eyes to watch through a routine and give feedback.

Most challenging part?

Pitching the routines to suit all abilities - so that no one feels left out and not able to do what is asked at one extreme or has their abilities underused at the other.

The diversity of character and ability within a cast - you need to be able to adapt something or find another way of explaining or demonstrating what you want - this is where patience is vital

Most enjoyable part?

Seeing the routine come together without having to shout instructions, seeing people who say 'I can't dance' become part of a routine and enjoy what they are doing and realise that they can dance.

Why do it?

For the love of dance, love of teaching and the love of performance and building a routine from nothing using your own imagination and then seeing it come to life with a diverse group of people. This is incredibly rewarding.