

Career Transition

The power and potential of dancers

by Jennifer Curry, Dancers' Career Development Executive Director



“Giving dancers an experience of a new working environment will provide an exciting opportunity for those embarking on transition to explore other career options.”

Kevin Muscat

Designer and Founder, Muscat Bridal, DCD Retrained Dancer. Muscat Bridal is a founding partner of DCD's new Career Insights Programme.

Dancers' Career Development (DCD) has supported over 2000 dance artists across the UK to successfully transition into alternative careers after retiring from professional performance. The charity is grounded in support for the individual artist and is expanding the scope of its work, with a wider regional presence and working with partners such as Facebook.

Each day I am inspired by the artists that I meet. Some may be at the very beginning of their journey with DCD, and others may have already been supported by DCD to retrain and are continuing to fly high in their careers.

“The Transition can be a challenging time in a dancer's life. Dancers tell us they experience feelings of loneliness, fear and isolation as they move beyond a performance career.”

DCD works with a wide variety of artists who have such skills, ambition and potential; it is a pleasure to observe dancers on their journey and to see them flourish as they embark on another phase in their careers.

Dancers can feel unsure about taking action in the face of uncertainty and how to practically demonstrate the wealth of skills, experience and knowledge they have to a potential employer. Our message is clear: Dancers are not alone. Any dancer can be in touch with DCD at any time to have a conversation about where they are now and how we can help them.

DCD fosters a culture of support for the individual. Each transition is unique and that is why it is critical to take the time to support each artist individually.

Transition is a constant for us all. We create an environment where change is viewed as a positive, where being curious and playful with possibilities is encouraged, and continuous learning and professional development is a priority.

In order to best prepare them for transition, DCD supports dancers from training, and all throughout their performing career. Our ambition is that every dance artist across the country is aware of the support we can offer and has access to it.

With the valued support of our funders and partners, we are building a strong national presence. Since 2014, DCD has delivered EVOLVE workshops in Cardiff, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds and London and in 2017 we expanded our Coaching Programme nationwide. This year we are

also celebrating the successes of dancers across the UK, with DCD Alumni celebrations in cities around the country.

We are always looking at what new support services we can offer, responding directly to the needs of dancers. In September 2017, DCD launches a new Career Insights Programme, where dancers will be able to gain practical, paid experience outside of the studio. As part of this programme we are thrilled to have partnered with Facebook, who will be opening its London Headquarters to dancers in September for an Inspiration and Training Day.

We will continue to work to empower artists to navigate happy and successful career transitions. The power and potential of dancers is phenomenal – with a little support, dancers can, and do, achieve anything.

Further information

020 7831 1449
dancers@thedcd.org.uk
www.thedcd.org.uk
Facebook /DancersCareerDevelopment
Twitter @dcd_dancers
Instagram DancersCareerDevelopment