

## Episode 24: Heatwave

### Clip: Nutcracker

#### Activity: Company Structure

#### Theme: Dance Knowledge

1. As a class, view the clip, *Nutcracker*, where The National Academy of Dance is preparing to present the ballet, *The Nutcracker*, for the end of year performance. Ethan does not want to “waste time” waiting around in the corps de ballet. Discuss and explain the roles in a ballet company and how a dancer can progress in seniority within a dance company. Dance companies generally maintain a strict structure. Illustrate this progression by highlighting the structure of responsibility and decision making in a school as compared to a dance company. Concentrate on roles and responsibilities, chain of command, and reporting mechanisms. Ballet companies generally have a hierarchy (which also reflects its royal heritage – King Louis XIV of France, the “Sun King”, was the first to introduce ballet as we know it today and he was its top performer. Those he favoured had other lead roles and still others filled spaces and acted as a chorus to his actions, but he was, nevertheless the “principal dancer”).
2. As a class, watch the clip, [Tips from the Top](#) from The Australian Ballet. In this clip, we hear three principal performers talk about what they needed to do to strive to be the best dancer. Ask students to name and list what each dancer says about how they became better at dance.
3. Divide students into groups of four and have the group select a well-known dance company and research the structure of it. For example, how many dancers are employed, what staff the company needs to produce performances, who are the directors of the company, who is the artistic director, etc. Ask the students to use **Student Activity Sheet E24.2: The Structure of a Dance Company** to outline their findings.
4. Still in groups, ask students to develop a concept for their own dance company. They should name the company and develop a rationale for it. Then they should provide an overview of the structure of the company, and the diversity of jobs and roles should be taken into account.

5. Once the groups have designed and developed the concept, they should present their work to the rest of the class and the class votes on the most appealing concept.

### Download

- Student Activity Sheet E24.2: The Structure of a Dance Company

### Useful resources

- [Arts Alive – Dance Professions](#)
- Australian Ballet web site Video: [Tips from the top](#)
- Koegler, H (ed.), *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ballet*, Oxford Paperbacks, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1982.

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Student Activity Sheet:  
Activity:

E24.2  
Company  
Structure

Episode 24:  
Clip:

Heat wave  
Nutcracker

## The Structure of a Dance Company

On the following page, draw a chart to document the hierarchy structure, for the roles listed below, within a dance company? Who rules at the top? Who is at the bottom of the hierarchy?

### ***DANCE COMPANY ROLES***

- Artistic Director
- Ballet Master
- Choreographer
- Principal Dancers
- Solo Artist
- Corps de Ballet