

Clip: Community Dance

Episode 15: My Life En Pointe

Activity: Plan a Community Dance Program

Theme: Dance Knowledge, Production

1. As a class, view the clip, *Community Dance*, where Kat spends some time with a community group as they learn to dance. In contrast to the Academy, the participants in the community dance group are non-professional. They dance for other reasons. As a class, explain and discuss the context of community dance participation. Dance classes respond to the interests and needs of a certain community. It is generally not-for-profit and focuses on social cohesion, health and wellbeing and basic skill development. It aims to be inclusive and welcoming. Often there is no performance outcome in the sense of a concert or a competition. Any outcomes are generally social in nature, such as a social dance or celebration. Community dance is usually ongoing and regular, unless it is focused around a dance project.
2. Ask students to research community dance classes in their local area and compile a list of opportunities for residents in the area. Have students also survey local area to ask residents in their area about their need for dance classes (via a questionnaire in the local shopping strip or by surveying their neighbours). What classes would they like? Why would they attend? How much they would be prepared to pay? What style of dance they would like to learn? (NB: Ensure students are properly supervised when conducting the survey).
3. As a class, collate the community responses and list the ideas the students gathered into age groups of residents and the most popular ideas. In Episode 15 Activity 4: Benefits of Dance, students previously created a dance poster articulating the benefit of dance to a certain community. Now they will plan a community dance project or program. Have students complete **Student Activity Sheet E15.5: Planning the Community Dance Program**.
4. Analyse the feedback from the community surveys and discuss the need for community dance classes in the area. Have students also list what classes already exist. Identify from the survey what the 'gaps' are and the perceived needs within the community. Discuss as a class why there are gaps (i.e. lack of skilled leaders, lack of interest, no venue, fees are too high, styles of dance don't appeal to a certain demographic).

Activity: Planning a Community Dance Program

5. As a class, select two or three community dance program ideas to develop. Divide the class into smaller groups to work up the ideas. Each group should:
 - a. Decide on a program title, dance style, target group, three proposed outcomes for the program, the number of weeks it will run, the venue, time, costs, who the tutors might be and any other details.
 - b. Make a pitch to the class to promote their proposed community dance program.
6. After all the pitches have been made to the class, the students will vote for the community dance program they feel is most compelling and will be most successful.
7. If possible, run a selected program as part of a term's work. The participants may be the class itself and the tutor may be a local dancer or choreographer, or the students themselves (though some coaching may be needed to ensure good lesson design and that safe dance practice is adhered to).

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E15.5: Planning the Community Dance Program

Useful resources

- [Ausdance Factsheet 4, Wages and tax for the dance industry](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 3, Copyright for the dance industry](#)
- [Foundation for Community Dance](#)
- [Ausdance – Community Dance articles](#)
- [Touch Compass](#)
- [Rawcus Dance Group](#)
- [CCC Lion Dance Troupe](#)
- [Merry Makers Dance Troupe](#)
- [Fiesta Mexico Community Dance Group](#)
- [Steps Youth Dance Company](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet:	E15.5	Episode 15:	My Life En Pointe
Activity:	Plan a	Clip:	Community Dance
	Community		
	Dance		
	Program		

Planning the Community Dance Program

Use the following table to plan out your community dance program.

	Possibilities (fill out three for each, then highlight best)	Reason for choice - for or against
Program name:		
Dance style:		
Target group:		
Outcomes of the program - you need three, write them all here:		
Number of weeks it will run		
The venue		
The dates, time		

Episode 15: My Life En Point
Clip: Community Dance

Possible Tutors		
Cost		
Any other details		

When you pitch this idea to your class, try to highlight the points that make this program better than all the others!