

Clip: Backstage Episode 6: Perfection

Activity: Behind the Scenes

Theme: Dance Knowledge

Producing artistic product requires many people and much time devoted to its development and presentation. Consider the enormous number of roles for people involved in the development of a large scale production, such as a school musical, or a show at a large city theatre.

1. As a class, brainstorm and list any large productions that the students have been involved with or know about. Have students list on the whiteboard the roles, responsibilities and duties of the people who work on the production.
2. Divide the class into small groups. Each group is designated a list of roles that represent the management phases of the production, for example, the actors and understudies, the artistic direction including stage designers, costume designers, the back stage crew, the producer/director/theatre manager, promotions and advertising. Each member of the group is to be assigned a role to research and become familiar with.
3. Play 'Hot Seat' role play:
 - a. Make a list of the roles of each worker and write them on a strip of paper, cut these up and put all roles into a 'hat'.
 - b. Each student selects one strip of paper but doesn't show anyone else. Individually, they could research the role before playing the game.
 - c. Each student is called to the 'hot seat' and the rest of the students can ask five questions of them.
 - d. At the end of the five questions the class has one chance to guess the role of the 'hot seat' participant.
 - e. If the class guesses correctly, they get a point. If they don't, then the person gets the point.

4. Each student is to develop a job description for the role that they researched. The job description should include duties required, qualifications, work hours, prior experience, pay rate, and remunerations for productivity.
5. Have students complete **Student Activity Sheet E6.4: Behind the Scenes**

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E6.4: Behind the Scenes

Useful resources

- [Ausdance Factsheet 1, Code of ethics for dance teachers](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 18, Occupational health safety for the dance industry](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 4, Wages and tax for the dance industry](#)
- [Australian Ballet Behind the Scenes Guide](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet: E6.4
Activity: Behind the Scenes

Episode 6: Perfection
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Behind the Scenes

Listed below are some of the many roles in a dance performance:

Corps de Ballet	Principal Dancer
Principal Choreographer	Rehearsal Assistant
Stage Manager	Conductor
Musician	Lighting technician
Wardrobe Manager	Crew
Front of House	Usher
Artistic Director	Coryphée
Medical Assistants	Set Designer
Company Manager	Marketing Manager
Sponsors	Soloist

In the table on the following page, write the name of the roles above in the space next to the relevant position descriptions.

	The person responsible for creating the dance and teaching the dancers the steps.
	This person makes sure the entire performance runs smoothly.
	A person who plays an instrument.
	This person is in charge of repairing and storing costumes.
	The main group of dancers that make up the majority of the cast.
	A person who greets patrons and informs them where to go.
	One of the lead roles in a performance.
	A person/company who help to financially support the company.
	Sets up and controls the lights throughout the performance.
	A Dancer who has a main role, but not the lead role.
	A person who books flights and theatres and takes care of paperwork.
	These people assist with changing the sets and any other backstage jobs.
	Someone who warms up the dancers and assists with running rehearsals.
	A person who advertises the company and their performances
	A step above the Corps De Ballet
	This person is in charge of the orchestra.
	A person in charge of the artistic direction of the company.
	Designs the set for the stage, liaising with the Artistic Director and considering era, budget, technical requirements and practical considerations.
	Physiotherapists, Massage Therapists, Pilates Instructors, Psychologists and Nutritionist.
	Performs customer service roles including greeting members of the public, ticket sales, refreshment sales and preparing the auditorium for the performance.