

how to write a dance resume

How to Write a Dance Resume

Creating a dance resume is a crucial step for any dancer looking to advance their career in the performing arts. A well-crafted resume showcases your skills, experience, training, and unique attributes that set you apart from other dancers. Whether you're auditioning for a dance company, applying for a role in a musical, or seeking opportunities in teaching, a polished dance resume can make a significant difference. In this article, we will explore the essential components of a dance resume, tips for formatting, and how to present your experience and skills effectively.

Understanding the Purpose of a Dance Resume

A dance resume serves several vital functions:

- Professional Introduction: It introduces you to potential employers, directors, or producers.
- Showcases Experience: It highlights your training and performance experience.
- Demonstrates Skills: It presents your unique skill set, from dance styles to teaching abilities.
- Facilitates Networking: It can be used to connect with industry professionals.

Understanding the purpose of your dance resume will help you craft a document that impresses and communicates your passion for dance.

Essential Components of a Dance Resume

A dance resume typically includes several key components:

Contact Information

Your contact information should be prominently displayed at the top of your resume. Include:

- Your full name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Website or online portfolio (if applicable)
- Social media handles (optional, but relevant platforms like Instagram or

LinkedIn may be included)

Professional Summary or Objective

A brief professional summary or objective can provide context for your resume. This section should be 2-3 sentences summarizing your experience, dance style, and career goals. For example:

“Dedicated ballet dancer with over 10 years of training and performance experience, seeking a position with a professional dance company to further develop my artistry and contribute to innovative productions.”

Training and Education

List your formal dance training and education in a clear format. Include:

- Names of schools, studios, or institutions
- Degrees or certifications earned (if applicable)
- Dates of attendance
- Notable teachers or mentors

Example format:

- School of Dance, New York, NY
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, May 2022
Principal Instructor: Jane Doe

- City Ballet Academy, Los Angeles, CA
Intensive Training Program, June 2016 - August 2018

Performance Experience

This section is critical as it highlights your practical experience. List performances, roles, and projects in reverse chronological order. Include:

- Production name
- Role or character played
- Company or ensemble name
- Dates of performance
- Notable directors or choreographers

Example format:

- “Swan Lake”
Role: Odette / Odile

City Ballet Company
November 2022

- "West Side Story"
Role: Anita
Broadway Musical Theatre, NYC
July 2021

Dance Styles and Skills

Highlight your proficiency in various dance styles. Be specific about the styles you excel in, such as:

- Ballet
- Contemporary
- Jazz
- Hip-Hop
- Tap
- Modern
- Ballroom

Additionally, include any other relevant skills, such as:

- Choreography
- Teaching or coaching
- Dance notation (e.g., Labanotation)
- Acrobatic skills
- Musicality

Special Awards and Achievements

If you have received any awards or recognitions in your dance career, list them in this section. Include:

- Name of the award
- Organization granting the award
- Date received

Example format:

- Best Dancer Award, National Dance Competition, 2023
- Scholarship Recipient, Summer Dance Intensive, 2022

References

While it is not always necessary to include references on your resume, having them available can be beneficial. You can simply state "References available upon request" or include a few contacts with permission. Ensure your references can speak to your dance skills and work ethic.

Formatting Your Dance Resume

The format of your dance resume should reflect your style while remaining professional. Consider the following tips:

Length

Keep your resume to one page if possible. A concise resume allows casting directors and employers to quickly review your information. If you have extensive experience, you may extend to two pages, but ensure that every detail is relevant.

Font and Layout

- Use clear, professional fonts like Arial, Times New Roman, or Calibri.
- Keep font size between 10-12 points for readability.
- Use headings and subheadings for organization.
- Maintain consistent spacing and alignment throughout the document.

Use of Color and Design

While it's essential to present a professional image, a splash of color or unique design elements can help your resume stand out. However, be mindful not to overdo it. Subtle color accents may enhance your resume without overwhelming the reader.

Tips for Crafting an Outstanding Dance Resume

To make your dance resume truly shine, consider the following tips:

Tailor Your Resume for Each Opportunity

Customize your resume for each audition or job application. Focus on experiences and skills that are most relevant to the specific opportunity.

This shows that you have taken the time to understand the role and how you fit into it.

Be Honest and Accurate

Always present information truthfully. Misrepresenting your experience or skills can damage your reputation in the industry. It's better to highlight your strengths and demonstrate a willingness to grow rather than exaggerate your accomplishments.

Proofread and Edit

Carefully proofread your resume for any grammatical errors or typos. Consider asking a friend or mentor to review it as well. A polished resume reflects your professionalism and attention to detail.

Include a Cover Letter

While not always necessary, a cover letter can complement your resume. It allows you to express your passion for dance, explain why you're interested in the position, and elaborate on specific experiences that make you a strong candidate.

Conclusion

Writing a dance resume is an essential skill for any dancer aspiring to make a mark in the industry. By carefully organizing your information, highlighting your unique experiences and skills, and presenting everything in a professional format, you can create a compelling resume that opens doors to exciting opportunities. Remember, your dance resume is a reflection of your journey and passion for dance—take the time to make it shine!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of a dance resume?

The purpose of a dance resume is to showcase your training, performances, skills, and experience to potential employers or casting directors in the dance industry.

What key sections should be included in a dance resume?

A dance resume should typically include sections like Contact Information, Dance Experience, Training, Special Skills, and Performance Highlights.

How should I format my dance resume?

Your dance resume should be formatted clearly and concisely, using a clean layout with easy-to-read fonts. Keep it to one page and organize sections logically.

Should I include my education on my dance resume?

Yes, you should include your education if it is relevant to dance, such as degrees in dance or related fields, as well as any significant dance programs or workshops attended.

How do I list my dance experience on the resume?

List your dance experience chronologically, starting with the most recent. Include the name of the company, role, and dates of involvement, as well as notable performances.

What if I have limited dance experience?

If you have limited experience, focus on your training, any workshops attended, and relevant skills. You can also include volunteer work or community performances.

Is it important to mention special skills on my dance resume?

Yes, mentioning special skills such as proficiency in various dance styles, acrobatics, singing, or acting can set you apart and showcase your versatility.

How can I make my dance resume stand out?

To make your dance resume stand out, use strong action verbs, tailor it for each opportunity, and include a professional headshot if appropriate.

Should I update my dance resume regularly?

Yes, you should update your dance resume regularly to reflect new experiences, training, and skills, ensuring it remains current and relevant for auditions.

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