

# RECRUITMENT



**Linda Yates**

Linda Yates is the executive director of Dancers' Career Development, a London-based organisation dedicated to helping dancers find new careers. The charity offers practical, psychological and financial retraining support services, reaching from educational advice, career coaching, emotional counselling, CV and interview guidance and school workshops for dance students, to grants for retraining and business start-up grants for eligible professional dancers

*How does Dancers' Career Development work?*

We devise a personal career training programme for each individual dancer. The programme can be anything from six months to five years. We have regular face to face meetings, which are intended to make them feel secure in

a period of great change.

*How successful are you?*

We have 92% of our dancers still in the jobs they trained for. Dancers are focused and determined, and they take those qualities with them into their new careers and build on their distinctive strengths.

*What sort of jobs do they do?*

They have been very diverse. Some stay in the profession, others move into completely different areas. We have one dancer who is training to be a pilot and he has been offered the job of transporting air buses across America, once he finishes his training. We also have an ex-belly dancer who took a course in Feline and Big Cat Behaviour and Therapy. She currently works in Thailand.

*Were you ever a dancer?*

I trained as a dancer until I was 18

but I didn't have the body or the build, so I studied a degree in French literature at the Sorbonne. Following that I went into corporate marketing, before becoming the administrator at the Royal Academy of Dance.

*What qualities would someone need to do your job?*

A high level of empathy and understanding is important, as is an educational background.

*What is the best piece of advice you have been given?*

Never underestimate dancers and don't put them in boxes.

*What is your biggest career challenge in the year ahead?*

To get the message out to dancers who have not heard of us. We are a charity and to date we have been limited with our funding.

*Kevin Berry*