

## Careers: Finding a new working life

# Carving out a top career — second time around

**G**ORDON Ramsay jumped out of the frying pan into the fire, so to speak, when he left the Rangers defence for the restaurant kitchen; Kim Wilde traded her microphone and miniskirts for a spade and wellies; and, Roger Black, who retired from the running track in 1998, now does the circuit as a motivational trainer.

For professions with a short shelf-life, such as sports or modelling, the only option is to look for a second career when your time is up.

Just as the military has the Career Transition Partnership assisting retired servicemen and women into new jobs, other sectors also have facilities to help former employees into new careers. For retiring professional ballerinas and other dancers, the charity Dancers' Career Development offers support through career coaching, counselling and retraining, and business start-up grants. Their work is funded by nine UK dance companies, including the English National Ballet and Royal Ballet, who pay five per cent of their dancers' salaries each year into it. Former dancers have gone on to make successful careers in everything from architecture to floristry.

For sports professionals, the Ace Programme, which is run by UK Sport, offers advice and opportunities for individuals to develop skills for life after the competitions end. Currently, 1,500 UK sportsmen and women, including 600 world class players and

athletes, have access to advisers offering information on further education, balancing study with sports training, and securing work. Advisers also refer individuals to specialist organisations such as Open, the Olympic and Paralympic Employment Network, and career transition professionals. The service is available to sports professionals both during their professional careers and for up to 12 months after their retirement from sport.

### Where to find a second chance

**Dancers' Career Development:**  
020 7404 6141; [www.thedcd.org.uk](http://www.thedcd.org.uk)

**Career Transition Partnership:**  
020 7766 8020; [www.ctp.org.uk](http://www.ctp.org.uk)

**UK Sport:**  
020 7211 5100; [www.uksport.gov.uk](http://www.uksport.gov.uk)

**Olympic and Paralympic Employment Network:** 020 8871 2677;  
[www.olympics.org.uk](http://www.olympics.org.uk)

### BALLET DANCER TURNED MAKE-UP ARTIST

**Anita Griffin**  
London Contemporary  
Dance Theatre 1977 to  
1985

"I didn't make a conscious decision to stop dancing, but made a decision not to be in a company full-time," explains Griffin, 45, a contemporary dancer for 18 years, from 1977 to 1985, primarily with the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, before she gave up dancing full-time. "I had been in the LCDT for almost 10 years and I wanted to have a family, and juggling dancing with children is difficult."

After retiring, Griffin worked as a freelance rehearsal director and assistant choreographer as her children grew up (she has two teenage sons) before deciding to retrain as a make-up artist. "I had always been interested in doing it, but it is a difficult career to take on when you have young children, because the hours are long. So, when the boys got a bit older I went along to the Greasepaint studios in Ealing to talk to the tutors. I was a bit concerned that maybe I was a bit old for it, but it seems to be a career that people can go into at any age."

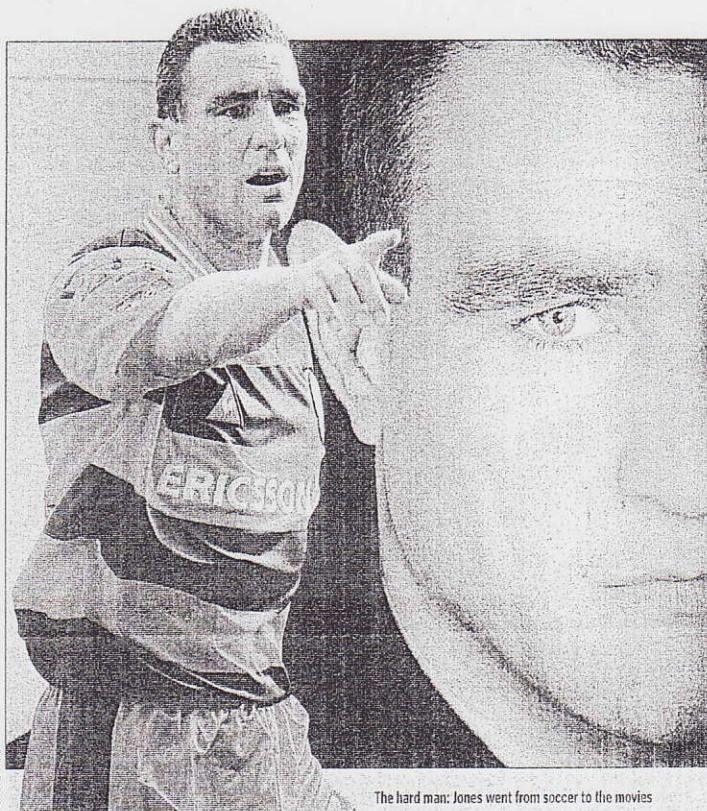
Griffin decided a three-month course in screen make-up, which included training in

photography, film and television and special effects, was right for her. The charity Dancers' Career Development, which helps former dancers get started in new careers, agreed to pay her fees and a maintenance allowance. "That was fantastic because there is no way I would have been able to pay for it myself," she says.

Since completing her training, Griffin has worked on two short films for television, a Channel 4 crime series and was recently on location in east London and Spain working on the new Sky drama about airline cabin crew, Mile High. Griffin is happy in her new role, but adds: "I do miss the excitement of performance. You can't get that anywhere else."



Two-step: Anita Griffin changed tack from dancer (above) to make-up artist (right)



The hard man: Jones went from soccer to the movies

### FOOTBALLER TURNED MOVIE STAR

**Vinnie Jones**  
Wimbledon, Chelsea, Leeds, QPR  
and Wales 1983 to 1996

During his 13 years as a professional footballer, Vinnie Jones was better known for his bad behaviour on and off the pitch than his outstanding form with the ball. Among other highlights, the hard man of Wimbledon's "crazy gang", was sent off 12 times during his professional career. However, Jones always wanted to be a professional footballer and got his chance when he signed for Wimbledon at 22. "I was older than most, so I knew I had to work harder," he says. "My life up until then had been such a struggle that when I got the chance, I made up my mind I wouldn't fail." He adds: "Playing football gave me some self-respect. Without it I'm sure I'd have ended up in and out of prison."

Jones turned his attention to a new career in Hollywood with 1998's Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Guy Richie's acclaimed British gangster flick, in which he played Big Chris, a savage debt collector. "Although I only had a small role, I didn't want it to be a one-off

and tried my best to get it right," he says. Jones retired from football the following year aged 35.

However, Jones's first foray into the world of screen wasn't quite so successful. Presenting the now infamous Soccer's Hard Men video, Jones revealed that he had intended to foul Steve McMahon in the 1998 cup final, and was subsequently fined by the FA for bringing the game into disrepute.

"I've made my own luck," he says. "Once I started playing football, I decided to work really hard. Now my life has started again in the movies, my attitude is the same. I keep my head down and graft, graft, graft. I try so hard because failure frightens me. I've spent most of my life as a normal fellow, but now I feel as if I've won the Lottery. It's all just one brilliant adventure."

With eight films, including Snatch, Gone in 60 Seconds, Swordfish and Mean Machine under his belt, and two more on the way this year — Red Light Runner with Harvey Keitel and the Big Bounce with Morgan Freeman — Jones is going great guns in Hollywood. He now divides his time between his home in Hemel Hempstead and his £2 million mansion in Beverly Hills. According to reports, he has earned more from his films in the past few years than he did during his entire football career. But, he adds: "I am doing this because I enjoy it, and I want people to go to the pictures and get a good feeling."

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