



Dancers' Career Development Bursary Recipient Profile

Name: Luke Baxter

DCD Bursary received: Maude Lloyd & Rudolf Nureyev recipient 2007

Previous occupation: Luke worked in Musical Theatre for 26 years. He was in the original casts of *Cats* and *We Will Rock You* and worked on *Phantom of the Opera* and *Miss Saigon*.

Retraining: Luke is currently studying a three year diploma course to become a Staff Nurse, for which he received a Scholarship for Excellence.



'be realistic about what you want to do, remember it's a future career' Luke Baxter

How did you find out about the DCD Bursaries and why did you apply?

I found out about the DCD Bursaries when I saw an advert in *The Stage*. I applied as I was looking specifically for Childcare help while I completed my course.

What has been the best thing to come out of the Bursary so far?

Receiving the Bursary has enabled me to complete my three year course without having to worry about Childcare – it's been a lifesaver, without which I would not have been able to complete my training.

'I felt very supported in a complete career change – it has changed my life'

Luke Baxter

What is your advice for people applying for the 2010 Special Bursaries?

My advice would be to keep realistic about what you are going to do and how you plan to do it. You have to be prepared for a complete career change, which is why it is so important you think carefully about that you really want to do – it can't be forced and it takes as long as it needs to. I found it to be a straightforward application and the staff are very helpful. Make sure you look at the criteria for the application and gather as much information as you can so you are as prepared as possible. I found that completing the application gives you a foundation and a focus to move forward, and is useful as a tool to use in the future.



What's next?

I graduate as a Staff Nurse in May 2011, and will then decide which area I would like to specialise in. I am currently completing a training placement in the A&E department in Hastings, after which I will be in the Coronary Care Unit. I love what I am doing, you don't realise the extent of doing something so completely different from performing, it is truly life-changing and I can't thank DCD enough for all of their help, encouragement and support.