



LA DANCE MAGIC

# CHRISTIAN VINCENT

## TIPS TO HELP GUIDE DANCERS LOOKING TO DANCE IN COLLEGE

### HAVE A DANCER LOOKING TO PURSUE DANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP MAKE THE PROCESS EASY FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENT:

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**AUDITION** FOR AT LEAST THREE SCHOOLS. SOME DANCERS AUDITION FOR ONE OR TWO (SOMETIMES ONLY THE TOP PROGRAMS IN THE US) AND ARE LEFT DISAPPOINTED WITHOUT AN ACCEPTANCE LETTER.

**RESEARCH** WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS IN TERMS OF COURSES AND CLASSES. DOES IT ALIGN WITH YOUR END GOAL? DOES THE CURRICULUM PREPARE YOU FOR CONCERT DANCE, COMMERCIAL DANCE, MUSICAL THEATER, DANCE SCIENCE....?

**RESEARCH THE FACULTY** AND LEARN ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUND, RESUME, AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE. HAVE THEY WORKED IN THE REALMS YOU WANT TO BE IN? IF POSSIBLE, GO TO ANY INTENSIVES OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITIES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PRIOR TO AUDITIONING. FAMILIARITY WITH FACULTY MEMBERS AND THEIR DANCE STYLES CAN HELP THE AUDITIONING PROCESS

I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE SCHOLARLY COMPONENT IS MISSING IN MANY APPLICANTS. **MAINTAINING GRADES** IS IMPORTANT TO MEET ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS TO GET INTO THE BEST SCHOOLS.

MOST PROGRAMS STILL **PRIORITIZE BALLET**. TRUE COMPETENCY IN BALLET (BARRE, CENTER) IS NECESSARY. I HAVE SEEN MANY EXCELLENT JAZZ/VERSATILE CONVENTION DANCERS NOT BE ACCEPTED BECAUSE THEY BYPASS ROOTED BALLET BASICS.

IF POSSIBLE **SPEAK TO DANCERS** ATTENDING A PROGRAM YOU WANT TO ATTEND. THEY CAN GIVE INSIGHT INTO THE CULTURE OF THE PROGRAM AND WHAT THE FACULTY VALUES OR DEVALUES. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME SCHOOLS PRIORITIZE MODERN, WHILE OTHERS SEEK TO PUSH HYBRIDIZATION (MULTIPLE DANCE FORMS).

HAVING A **STRONG SENSE OF MOVEMENT IS KEY**. MANY DANCE PROFESSORS HAVE SAID THAT DANCERS COMPARTMENTALIZE DANCE FORMS. MEANING WHEN ASKED TO IMPROVISE, THEY CANNOT SEEM TO DRAW FROM THEIR DIVERSE VOCABULARY (HIP, HOP, CONTEMPORARY, JAZZ, BALLET...) TO CREATE AND MOVE. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TO DO A DOUBLE MAJOR. MANY DANCERS HAVE VARIED INTERESTS AND WANT TO PURSUE TWO DEGREES. GO FOR IT!!!! ALSO, SOME DANCERS CHOOSE TO DO A DANCE MINOR. BE AWARE THAT THE MINOR DANCE CLASSES ARE NOT NORMALLY AS RIGOROUS AND CAN BE A ROOM FULL OF NONDANCERS OR INDIVIDUALS WITH MINIMAL DANCE EXPERIENCE.

IF **INTERVIEWED AT YOUR AUDITION**, AND ASKED IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ALWAYS HAVE A QUESTION PREPARED. IT SHOWS INTEREST AND THAT A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT HAS DONE THEIR RESEARCH ON THE PROGRAM.

REMEMBER THAT **DANCE PROGRAMS ARE NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL**. DANCERS HAVE TO FIND AN INSTITUTION THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR ABILITIES AND FUTURE. IT IS STILL SCHOOL, SO ATTENDING A DANCE PROGRAM IN HIGHER EDUCATION WILL NOT ALWAYS BE AS FUN OR FLASHY AS THE CONVENTION REALM. **ATTENDING DANCE IN COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CAN DEFINITELY BE LIFE-CHANGING AND REWARDING IF PREPARED FOR AND CHOSEN.**