The Department of Dance is an internationally acclaimed conservatory program, a kind of incubator for creative and diverse individuals who are striving towards a professional future as dancers and choreographers. Our graduates have the reputation for being creative muses and innovative choreographers who set a standard in the profession. They perform with world-class dance companies and choreographers, appear on Broadway, at Radio City Music Hall, and at The Metropolitan Opera, striking a balance between concert and commercial dance.
The training program offers a comprehensive and organic approach to dance. Our unique curriculum is designed to be completed in three years plus two summers. Technique and compositional skills are taught by working professionals in the New York dance world and focus on cutting-edge contemporary dance and traditional ballet training. Students supplement these courses with additional studies in somatics, kinesthetics of anatomy, music theory, acting, and dance history. Students receive written evaluations for each class and student/faculty conferences are encouraged. In addition to their departmental work, students are expected to take academic courses throughout their training period to fulfill the requirements for their Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Professional Development

The department presents 36 evenings of dance each year, giving students multiple opportunities to perform in the works of faculty, guest artists, and graduate and undergraduate students. Students also have opportunities to create choreographic works throughout the year and see them staged. Opportunities exist to collaborate with musicians, designers, and media artists as well as artists, filmmakers, actors, and designers studying at the Tisch School of the Arts. The department arranges numerous enrichment workshops that support the professional development of our young dance artists.

Curriculum

The final year culminates in a professional experience within a resident company setting, the Second Avenue Dance Company. Distinguished guest choreographers, faculty, and students develop new choreographies, reconstruct masterworks, and present dance company repertoires in performances throughout the year. Students have had the opportunity to audition for and perform in work by major artists, which have included repertoire from Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, William Forsythe, and Bill T. Jones. The Second Avenue Dance Company also serves as a laboratory for student choreography.

Career Resources

The Tisch Office of Career Development strives to provide students and alumni with lifelong professional skills that help establish and sustain successful careers in the arts. TOCD's services include: Tisch College Central, a searchable internship/job database; individualized career counseling (by appointment and weekly walk-ins); resume and cover letter reviews; career workshops and events; industry mentorship programs; access to electronic industry research tools; and a resource library stocked with trade publications and numerous career-related handouts. TOCD is located within Tisch's Office of Student Affairs.

In conjunction with TOCD, the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development provides career guidance and development services to NYU students and alumni. The Center hosts seminars, job fairs, and expos; schedules career counseling appointments; connects students with mentors and alumni; trains students in job interview skills and resume/cover letter writing; and compiles employer databases. The Center also maintains NYU CareerNet, an online database of both on- and off-campus job and internship listings. Students may use Wasserman's resources to identify sustainable employment opportunities or explore additional career interests outside of the arts.

Alumni

Dance alumni maintain a lifelong affiliation with the Tisch School of the Arts and have gone on to a wide variety of careers in the arts and beyond. Many have become successful dancers, choreographers, teachers and leaders across the United States and throughout the world. All are part of a vibrant network of mentors, artists, and entrepreneurs supported by the Tisch Office of Alumni Relations and the Tisch Office of Career Development. By creating interdisciplinary and cross-generational collaborations, these two offices help alumni maintain a connection to the past while growing into their future. Of particular note are two main alumni councils, Tisch East and Tisch West, whose activity is centered on metropolitan NYC and LA respectively, as well as the Dance Alumni Association, which works to engage alumni and increase the visibility of the Department of Dance.