

KOGER BEHIND THE SCENES

BALLET

INSTRUCTOR RESOURCE GUIDE

This video guide is presented by the Koger Center in partnership with The South Carolina Arts Commission. This guide will take students on an interactive journey through the various careers in the Ballet industry, predominantly focusing on “behind the scenes” or technical aspects of Ballet. Students will participate in a number of instructor guided activities, discussions, writing exercises, and hands-on learning opportunities. This guide is intended as a resource for educators. It is written in adherence to the South Carolina The South Carolina College- and Career Ready Education Standards. This resource is recommended for middle school education*.

Dance Anchor Standard 7: I can relate dance to other arts disciplines, content areas, and careers.
<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards/visual-and-performing-arts/standards/dance-design-and-media-arts-standards/>



*modifications are available on certain activities/exercises for the younger student

**Please note that not all available careers are included in this video and guide. Each Koger Behind the Scenes video illustrates several different careers in the industry. If needed, please reference the Orchestra, Visual Art, and Drama videos (as well as their corresponding guides) for additional information!

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1. Overview: What is Ballet?
2. Lighting
3. Set Design
4. Stage Crew
5. Fundraising
6. Makeup Artist
7. Ballet in the Classroom: exercises and activities for the student



OVERVIEW: WHAT IS BALLET?



What is Ballet?

Ballet is a physical art form known as **dance**. **Dance** is creating art with the human body through **movement, rhythm, space, and energy**- to name just a few!

The Koger Center is lucky to host several ballet **companies**. A **company** is a group of dancer who typically specialize in classical ballet, and put on performances! But the dancers aren't the only people involved in this process, there are lots of professionals who work to ensure everyone can see these artists' work.



 **Connection Question:** Before beginning, what is your idea of Ballet? What do you immediately think of? There are no wrong answers, this is just to show what you know!

When you think of ballet, you're probably thinking of a ballerina, right? While it's true that ballet dancers are often the focus of a performance, there are so many people behind the scenes that are instrumental in the process. From set design to fundraising, we're going to explore it all!



CAREER PATH: LIGHTING

Have you ever seen a performance on a stage? The reason you are able to see all of the performers onstage is because of a **Lighting Designer**. A lighting designer creates a plan for which lights to use and when. Along with making sure everyone can be seen, the lights help convey a mood or atmosphere throughout the show. The lighting designer works closely with the director to ensure a specific vision is conveyed.

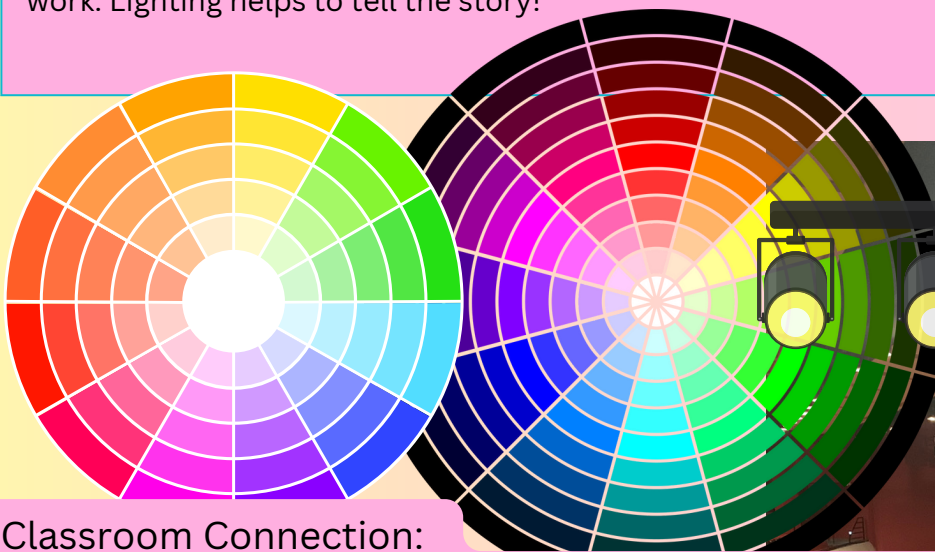
SPOTLIGHT: Jim Hunter, Lighting Designer

It's never too early to start, Jim did his first lighting design at just 15 years old!

Technical designers need creative ability as well as an advanced knowledge of theatre technology and lighting equipment! Their job is to create another character, in a way, The lighting assists and develops the show as well as building a platform for the actors to work. Lighting helps to tell the story!



Jim Hunter,
The University of South Carolina
Theatre and Dance Department



Classroom Connection:

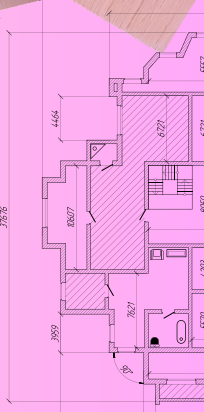
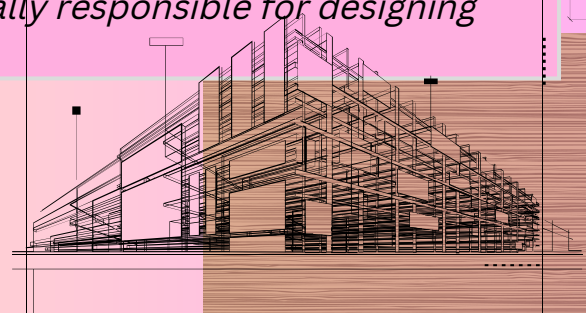
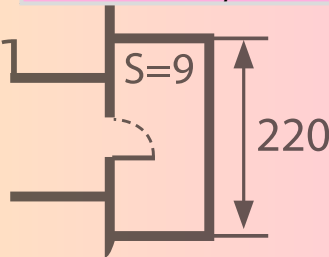
Part of a lighting designer's job is to work with color. Which colors convey which emotions? Make a list of which colors represent which emotions for you! Think about how you would use these during a show, and come up with a scenario for each. Ex: When Scar kills Mufasa in the Lion King, the lighting designer may choose to use red to signify anger, and to create a dramatic effect



*"The lights
tell the
audience
where to
look!"*

CAREER PATH: SET DESIGN

What is a **set designer**? A set designer's job is to design the set, simple as that! They must have a good understanding of math and design principles as well as creativity and artistry! The set designer ensures that the set is practical and safe while also setting the correct mood for the overall show. They are also partially responsible for designing the atmosphere.



CLASSROOM CONNECTION- Jim discusses having a “Toolbox.” Go around the circle and share things you have in your toolbox that you are proud of. Ex: I am a good friend. (The educator's response should connect back to the material, “That's a great skill to have in your toolbox! A theatre designer has to be a good friend too! When you work on a production it's important to make good relationships because **you are a team!**) Sharing circle, group activity

CLASSROOM CONNECTION- You have just been hired as a set designer! Your first task is to create a shoebox diorama of the stage for your show! Your instructor may assign your show or you may choose one of your own!

Advanced- You must present your set design to the director during a meeting! Create a model of your set design using a shoe box. Then, you will pitch your set design to the class! Be sure to think about how each set piece will be used during the show. Does your set contribute positively to the story being told?

"It's sort of like a kid's job, and I love that about it!"



Jim talks about getting to do different shows and see new places and meet new people! ***"It's always new and fun"***

CAREER PATH: STAGE CREW

Members of the **stage crew** are the ones who keep the show running behind the scenes! They are responsible for **rigging** (hanging tour equipment), **changeovers** (change between shows, preparing the stage), installing scenery, electronics, sound, and repairing stage equipment in between or even during shows!

SPOTLIGHT: Lion King Stage Crew

A good member of Stage Crew:

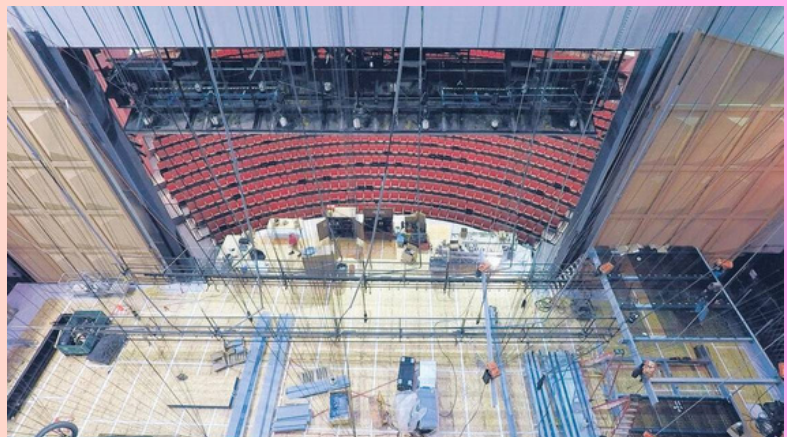
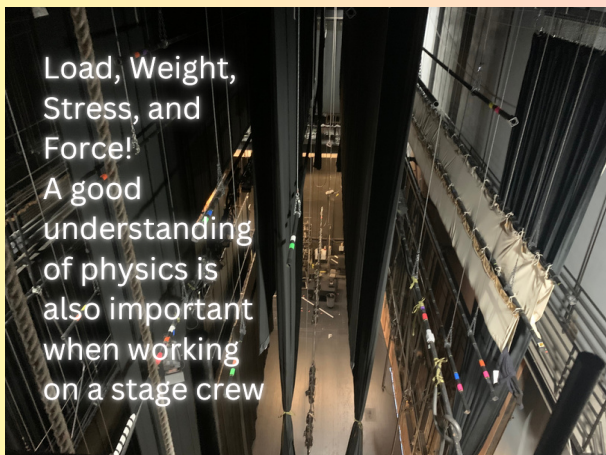
- Must have a general understanding of the equipment used
- Understanding your strengths, focus on those first
- It's mostly about exposure, if people see you work and see that it's good work, you get hired again!



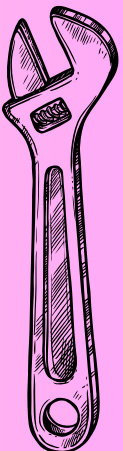
"ever since then it's just been me and a crowbar"



Pictured Above: The Koger Loading Dock is where many traveling Broadways crews unload their sets and equipment for upcoming shows!



These ropes are used backstage to move backgrounds, set pieces, and curtains!



CAREER PATH: FUNDRAISING

Grantwriters are responsible for identifying sources of funding and writing **grant proposals** for new or existing nonprofits, programs, or events. Grantwriters are a key aspect of arts organizations!



SPOTLIGHT:
Lee Lumpkin, Grantwriter for
Columbia Classical Ballet

"A cause you believe in"

Lee Lumpkin, grantwriter for Columbia Classical Ballet, says that grantwriting and fundraising is all about, **"When you fall in love with something and believe in it."** Lee writes grants for Columbia Classical ballet, which means that she finds sources of funding and writes a **grant proposal** explaining how much money is needed, what the money will be used for, when the money is needed by, and why Columbia Classical Ballet should have the money in the first place!



A community- driven project here at Koger! Oftentimes, fundraising is needed for projects like this



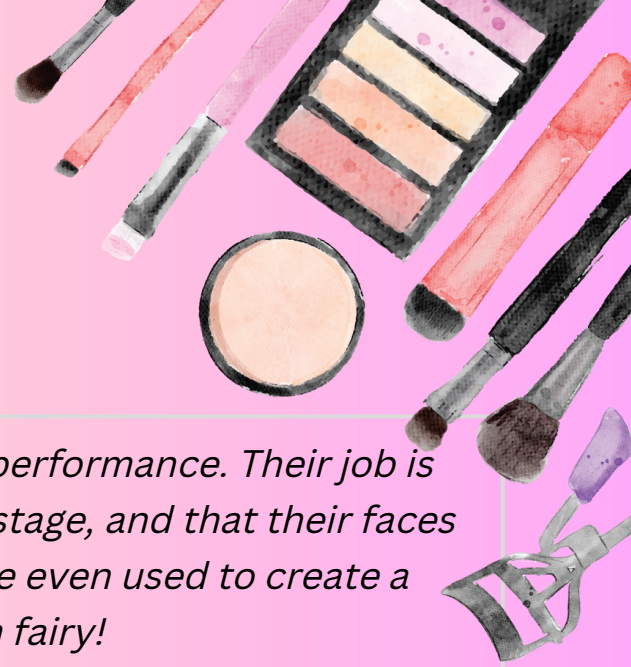
Listening Circle: What is a cause you believe in?
What is something you are passionate about?

"Mission, budget, outreach"

CLASSROOM CONNECTION- Think of something you really want. It can be a new bike, a cellphone, anything! Write down the amount of money needed for the item, and why you should have it, how will it positively impact those around you? For example, maybe a new cellphone will make you more responsible. You will be able to text your grandmother more, or text your mom when you arrive safely at a friend's house!

ALTERNATE CLASSROOM CONNECTION: You are making a sales pitch on Shark Tank. Research a cause you believe in. Write down why you believe in this cause, how much money you will need, and why! Then, you will make your sales pitch in front of the entire class.

CAREER PATH: MAKEUP ARTIST



Makeup artists are a key component of any show or performance. Their job is to make sure the performers look their best while onstage, and that their faces can be seen clearly! In some cases, makeup artists are even used to create a character, such as an old man, a tiger, or a sugarplum fairy!

SPOTLIGHT: Valerie Pruett, The University of South Carolina Department of Theatre and Dance

Valerie tells future makeup artists to, "**do everything you can to support your performer, you are usually the last person performers see before going onstage! It's important to be calm, cool, and collected.**"

There are many professions within hair and makeup, such as:

Bridal makeup, editorial makeup, high fashion/runway, SFX (Special Effects) makeup

"Never limit yourself, its not just one job"

In order to become a hair/makeup artist:

- Cosmetology or barbering license
- Potentially high school program
- Union (key term)



Valerie Tip:
Learn with
YouTube!
(with parent
permission)



**"I'm going to be brushing
your hair now"**

CLASSROOM CONNECTION:
Valerie learned from an old book called monster makeup- using a paper plate, draw your own monster makeup look!

It's important to tell your actors what you're doing! Remember, *it's their body*, you should respect their body and their space!



BALLET IN THE CLASSROOM:

EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE STUDENT

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Classroom Connection:

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