

# Dance

## A guide to Web resources

by Carol Hansen

The Web provides access to a broad range of information and media on dance, useful to dance students, faculty, and dance aficionados. The Web sites selected for this article were chosen for their usefulness to the general academic dance community with a primary focus on sites devoted to ballet and modern dance. Readers may use the meta sites and directories listed to access many more sites on specific styles of dance from Balinese to zydeko.

The sites below were evaluated for their usability, design, and, primarily, their content. When a commercial site is listed, it is chiefly for the dance information provided, not for the products or services it sells. Print periodicals, mailing lists, discussion groups, and chat sites are not highlighted in this article. Links to many publications and forums are included in the meta sites, as are directories of organizations, dance companies, and lists of prominent dancers. Several magazines with excellent Web sites are listed within the meta sites because of their rich and varied content.

Internet resources on dance are increasingly important to the dance community as more dance performances are preserved and shared through new technologies. Hopefully the sites presented will provide inspiration for dancers, librarians, and researchers to continue searching the Web for dance information and media. Although there are many excellent Web sites on dance, even the best sites seem to have a few dead links, demonstrating that dance sites

in cyberspace can be as fleeting as a pirouette across a stage.

### Starting points and meta sites

- **Artslynx/Dance.** Start here for an easy and useful overview of dance information on the Web. Artlynx editor Richard Finkelstein has created a comprehensive gateway site for finding Web sites on dance. This meta site provides 28 categories of dance links. Categories unique to this site include "Dancer Health" and "This Month in Dance History." The list of links to professional, scholarly, educational, and discipline-based organizations is useful for academic dance programs. Other categories of note include "African Dance" and "University Listings." *Access:* <http://www.artslynx.org/dance/>.

- **@URL Internet Resources: A Dance is Worth 10,000 Words.** Find extensive links on all aspects of dance from this New



Zealand-based site. The categories on dance and new media include links to sites

on dance-related technologies, digital dance/media software for dance, dance video, dance film, and CD-ROMs. *Access:* <http://url.co.nz/arts/dance.html>.

- **Ballet.co.uk.** Ballet.co.uk is an attractive site with many articles, links, and images. This free online magazine includes interviews,

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current news, performances this week, and discussion postings. Links to dance reviews in the

**ballet.co**

global press are updated daily. The reviews data-

base, with its advanced search option, is particularly useful for reading past reviews of dance performances from around the world. *Access:* <http://www.ballet.co.uk/>.

• **The Ballet.com.** Introductory pages with short articles on the dancer, techniques, and the history of ballet are provided. The site is useful for its daily news updates from international sources. *Access:* <http://www.theballet.com/>.

• **BalletCompanies.com.** View more than 2,000 links to ballet and dance companies all over the world at this site created by Dick Heuff, former head of the audiovisual department of the Netherlands Dance Theatre. Take note of the links in the "Dance and Technologies" section. *Access:* <http://www.balletcompanies.com/>.

• **Criticaldance.com.** Included here are feature articles, reviews, several interviews, a small photo gallery, and selections from the best of its forum discussions. The forums, on many dance styles, have more than 75,000 postings. *Access:* <http://www.criticaldance.com/>.

• **Culture Kiosque: Dance.** Culture Kiosque covers international cultural events with news, commentary and information on



the arts, culture, and entertainment in North America and Europe. This appealing site contains calendars of featured and seasonal events. The se-

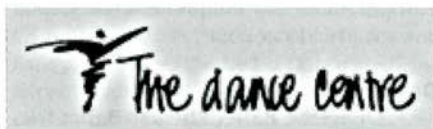
lected articles and book and performance reviews are worth a visit to this site. The primary writer on dance for Culture Kiosk is Patricia Boccadoro who also writes for *The Guardian* and *Dancing Times*. Articles are available in English, French, and German. *Access:* <http://www.culturekiosque.com/dance/>.

• **Cyberdance: Ballet on the net.** A collection of more than 3,500 links to classical ballet and modern dance resources on the



Internet can be found here. Visit this site to view long lists of links on events, auditions, competitions, research, FAQs, technology, newsgroups, chat sites, articles, reviews, magazines, summer programs, colleges, and schools. *Access:* <http://www.cyberdance.org/>.

• **The Dance Centre Links.** A well-designed and easy-to-use comprehensive site with lists of ballet and contemporary dance companies, choreographic centers, dance presenters and performance listings, organizations, funding resources, schools, bulletin boards, mailing lists, newsgroups, magazines, and other information resources. The site was developed by The Dance Centre, a not-for-profit society serving individuals and dance companies since 1986 in Vancouver, Canada. *Access:* <http://http://www.thedancecentre.ca/>.



• **Dance Insider Online.** The "Flash Reviews" on this site are one of its most popular features. These dance performance reviews are often posted the day after a show. Many of the reviews include links to video clips. Search by keyword "video" to find clips. See also the "Insider Web Picks" and "Vignettes" by dance critic Tobi Tobias. The site offers a guide to summer schools, and readers may subscribe to its free e-mail newsletter. *Access:* <http://www.danceinsider.com>.

• **Dance Links at Dancer.com.** Dance Links is perhaps the best known and most highly linked to dance site on the Internet. Online since before 1994, it has been worked on at various times by dance videographer Amy Reusch, James White, and Jon Wright. Major categories of links include: "Ballet Companies," "Modern/Contemporary Dance Companies," "More Dance Companies (Flamenco, Tap, Butoh, Multimedia, Jazz, World, etc.)," "Dance Presenters & Performance Listings," "Newsgroups, Dance Publications, Dance FAQs etc.," "Dance Organizations, Coalitions, etc." "Dance Schools," "Dancers," and "Dance Web Indices." Pointe shoe manufacturer Gaynor Minden donates the hosting of the site. *Access:* <http://www.dancer.com/dance-links/>.



- **Sapphire Swan Dance Directory.**

This extremely useful directory provides many links to more than 30 styles of dance from Aztec to zydeco. Each site listed provides a good collection of links on a particular style or specialized information about an area of dance. This may be the best place to start looking for information on many different dance styles. *Access:* <http://www.sapphireswan.com/dance/>.

- **Voice of Dance.** Voice of Dance is a well-organized and well-designed site with current news, directories, some video clips, and an extensive image gallery on ballet and modern dance. It includes references to newspaper reviews with links back to the articles. Its up-to-date performance calendars for selected events in more than 20 North American and European cities is unique. *Access:* <http://www.voiceofdance.com/>.

## Dance dictionaries

- **American Ballet Theatre Ballet Dictionary.** The American Ballet Theatre's Online Ballet Dictionary is a self-described "unique interactive resource designed to bring dance to the Web." One hundred and seventy terms from

the *Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet* (Dover) are

**ABT**

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

defined, and most are demonstrated with photographs or video clips of American Ballet Theatre dancers. *Access:* <http://www.abt.org/library/dictionary/>.

- **Glossarist.com—Dance: Glossaries and Dance Dictionaries.** Links to more than 30 glossaries of dance, including glossaries on ballet, flamenco, swing, Irish, and other types of dance are available from this site. *Access:* <http://www.glossarist.com/glossaries/arts-culture/dance.asp>.

## Special collections

- **American Ballet Theatre Repertory Archive.** A comprehensive list of the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Company's repertoire of performances going back to 1939 is featured here. The information is arranged by ballet and by choreographer. There are entries for more than 350 ballets, many of which include a synopsis of the ballet; information on the choreographer, scene, costume, and lighting de-

signers; the music; and other notes. *Access:* <http://www.abt.org/library/archive/>.

- **An American Ballroom Companion.**

From the American Memory Project and the Music Division at the Library of Congress, this site presents a collection of more than 200 social dance manuals from 1490 to 1920. It includes 75 video clips that illustrate portions of the dance instruction manuals in this unique searchable collection. *Access:* <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dihtml/dihome.html>.

- **Dance Heritage Coalition.** Using traditional methods and developing technologies, the Dance Heritage Coalition catalogs primary resources that document the history of dance. A searchable database helps visitors find dance materials located in more than 50 archival collections. *Access:* <http://danceheritage.org/index.htm>.

- **Dance Libraries, Archives, and Collections in the United States and Canada.** From Preserve, Inc., this is a helpful online list of special library collections on dance. Preserve Inc. is a national center for dance archives information that works to create links between dancers, choreographers, librarians, archivists, national repositories, and local networks. *Access:* <http://www.preserve-inc.org/library.html>.

- **Dance Notation Bureau.** The Dance Notation Bureau works to advance the use of dance notation to preserve dances. Dance steps or scores are recorded and preserved using the symbol system called Labanotation, which is described on this site. The site also includes a Web library and list of links to other dance notation sites. *Access:* <http://www.dancenotation.org/>.

- **Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.** This collection, established as a separate division in 1944, is the largest archive in the world devoted to the documentation of dance. Major collections of papers, letters, and artifacts from dance greats, including Isadora Duncan, Jose Limone, Doris Humphreys, and others, are housed in this remarkable collection. Don't miss its large gateway of Web links on all types of dance and dance-related issues. Of special note are links to the "Oral History Project" and "AIDS Initiative." Use the Dance Collection Catalog to search the collections by keyword, author, title, and subject. *Access:* <http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/dan/dan.html>.

• **Society of Dance History Scholars:**

**Online Resources.** This group dedicated to dance history provides a Web guide with dozens of links in nine categories on specific periods of dance history. *Access:* <http://www.sdhs.org>.

**Dance media**

See the gateway sites above for additional links in this category or for links on dance and technology.

• **Dance: An Annotated Videography of Holdings in the Media Resources Center, University of California, Berkeley.**

This videography contains a superb annotated list of dance videos categorized by locale ("Dance in Asia," "Native American Dance," etc.). It also includes a list of movies with dance and a short list of books on dance in film. *Access:* <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/DanceVid.html>.

• **Dance Films Association.** Association members (\$35) have access to an online searchable database of the "most comprehensive list of dance films and videos in current distribution in the U.S." The Dance Films association sponsors the internationally recognized Dance on Camera film festival. *Access:* <http://www.dancefilmsassn.org/>.



• **Digital Performance Archive.** The Digital Performance Archive (DPA) documents the use of computer technologies for performance, including live theater and dance productions. Access its searchable database of virtual performances from 1990 to 2001. A bibliography with more than 250 entries on digital performance is also available. *Access:* [http://dpa.ntu.ac.uk/dpa\\_site/](http://dpa.ntu.ac.uk/dpa_site/).

**Lesson plans for dance in K-12 curricula**

• **Free To Dance. Lesson Plans. Lesson 2: Modern Dance and the Harlem Renaissance.** Four activities are provided within this site for high school students having seen the PBS "Free to Dance" videos. The Free to Dance Web site also includes a dance timeline (from 1619 to 2001), list of links,

biographies, and other teaching resources. *Access:* [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/lessonplans\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/lessonplans_2.html).

• **The Kennedy Center Arts Edge—Curricula Lessons and Activities: Performing Arts.** More than 30 K-12 lesson plans involving dance activities are on this site. *Access:* [http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teaching\\_materials/curricula/](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teaching_materials/curricula/).

• **PE Central.** This database of lesson plans provides search access by keyword, subcategories, and title of lesson or activity. Results appear with clearly defined age/grade information at the top level. *Access:* <http://www.pecentral.org/lessonideas/dance/danceindex.asp>.

**Dancer health resources**

• **Dancer.com.** Gaynor Minden Inc., manufacturer of pointe shoes, publishes this site. Of note is a useful section on "Health and Safety," including the "Ask a Dance Medicine Expert" column and the article on *Turnout, Tendinitis and Bunions*. *Access:* <http://www.dancer.com>.

• **International Association for Dance Medicine and Science.** Visit this site for the full-text position paper on *The Challenge of the Adolescent Dancer* and information on other dance medicine publications and issues. Its bulletin board, for the dance science, medicine and education communities, contributes to the usefulness of this site. *Access:* <http://www.iadms.org>.



• **Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies (LIMS) Online.** LIMS Online offers programs and conferences on the science of movement, and a link to the corresponding Laban Web ring. *Access:* <http://www.limsonline.org/>. ■

**More about dance**

See the full article on the Web at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/resdec02.html>.