



**Jennifer Blake, Director of Dance personal statement:**

As a dance educator and artist, I am driven by my passion for dance. I encourage students to be determined, disciplined and to think multi-dimensionally about the pursuit of excellence, creativity and employment. It is possible for a dancer to be many things in his or her career; an artist, a manager, a creator and a leader. Overall success in the performing arts is discovered within the process of becoming a performer.

**Biography**

Jennifer Blake is dance educator and artist who has worked professionally as a performer, choreographer and teacher in the USA and Europe. Until recently, she was the Diploma Dance Course Leader and Lecturer on the B.A.( Hons) Dance at Sir Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA), teaching Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Choreography and

Contextual Studies. Previously, she performed for eight years in a range of contexts, as a ballet dancer, a contemporary dancer and a commercial dancer with Princess Cruises, Super Bowl XXX111, Radio City Entertainment, Demetrius Klein Dance Company, Tampa Bay Ballet, X –Factor Dance Company, Wired Aerial Theatre (Jacqui Jones/X- Rambert Dance Theatre) and Curve Foundation (works by Michael Clark). Jennifer has received Scottish Arts Council, Capital of Culture and NHS funds for her UK choreography, performance and dance and health initiatives. In Spain, Jennifer has given master classes and taught for the Cirque De Soleil casting audition in Barcelona.

As a teacher, Jennifer has worked at the highest level. She has professional recognition from both USA and UK universities and colleges, which align her experience with professional Further Education and Higher Education standards and frameworks. She holds an in M.A. in Dance Theatre Practice from LIPA, a post graduate teaching qualification (TQFE) Dundee University, a B.F.A. in Dance from Jacksonville University, Fl. and she is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK. Jennifer studied on scholarship at Jacksonville University, Fl, Jacob's Pillow, Mass. and the School of Hartford Ballet, Conn. She went to the High School of Performing Arts, Rochester, NY. Her recent student graduates have performed with 'We Will Rock You' in the West End, X-Factor (TV), Jessie J, Kylie Minogue, Janet Jackson, Duffy, Ollie Mur, 'Got to Dance' (UK), Olympics 2012, Diversions Dance Company, Dirty Dancing (TV), Mama Mia (Film), Princess Cruises, Disney and in European concert and theatre tours. Some graduates have created their own companies, schools and productions and have been awarded arts council funding, masters degrees and become professors. Jennifer is currently leading the development of the dance programmes for the Institute of the Arts Barcelona in Sitges, Barcelona.