

GLOBAL RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER SURVEY 2021



The position of resident choreographer (or equivalent¹) is one of the most promising opportunities for dance makers. The advantages of the position can include contractual compensation ranging from health benefits to a salary/fixed income, regular commissions, workshopping/studio use, childcare/parental leave, and creative liberties (i.e., choice of composer, technicians, assistant, etc.). In short, the position offers stability to artists who largely operate as freelance/gig workers as well as ready access to willing, highly-accomplished dancers.

This Data Byte provides a breakdown of the gender distribution² of resident choreographers at 75 domestic and 68 international ballet companies for a total of 143 companies, an increase in the number of companies (116) examined by DDP in 2020. We have also included a breakdown of artistic and executive leaders at the companies in the figures. The DDP research team sourced and verified information from staff rosters on company websites.

There is a total of 64 resident choreographer positions³ at the 143 companies, and 18 (28%) of them are held by women. In the United States, there are 34 resident choreographer positions, and 11 (32%) of them are occupied by women. Internationally, there are 30 resident choreographer positions, and 7 (23%) of them are occupied by women. DDP has found no relationship between artistic or executive leadership equity and resident choreographer equity⁴.

ALL COMPANIES			DOMESTIC COMPANIES			INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES		
Artistic Directors			Artistic Directors			Artistic Directors		
Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL
95	53	148	48	28	76	47	25	72
64%	36%		63%	37%		65%	35%	
Executive Directors			Executive Directors			Executive Directors		
Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL
62	60	122	29	41	70	33	19	52
51%	49%		41%	59%		63%	37%	
Resident Choreographers			Resident Choreographers			Resident Choreographers		
Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL
46	18	64	23	11	34	23	7	30
72%	28%		68%	32%		77%	23%	

1 Global staff rosters included the following alternative titles and more: associate choreographer, artist in residence, director/choreographer, choreographer-director, chief choreographer, choreographer in residence, principal guest choreographer, resident choreographer and artistic advisor, and choreographic associate.
 2 DDP employs a binary gender measurement in our research. To our knowledge, no individual studied for this report identified as nonbinary, however the DDP team is actively seeking to improve our research through adopting a gender inclusive approach and acknowledging that gender is a nonbinary spectrum. DDP affirms that trans men are men and trans women are women.
 3 Please note that some companies offer multiple resident choreographer positions (for instance, the Australian Ballet has 4). See footnote 1 for a breakdown of alternative titles.
 4 "Equity" here being the rate of including women in a roster of (1) artistic or (2) executive leadership or (3) resident choreographers.