

# Global Resident Choreographers Data Byte 2022

The position of resident choreographer, while it does not exist at every company and varies between organizations, represents job stability, resources, and artistic opportunity for choreographers, who otherwise tend to operate as freelancers or gig-workers. Benefits of the resident choreographer position may include the practical: job security, stable income, health benefits, as well as the artistic: consistent commissions, talented dancers, provided production elements, a built-in audience base. In certain cases the job is also quite lucrative: New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, two of the largest ballet companies by budget, each report paying their resident choreographer over \$275,000 annually on their tax filings.<sup>1</sup>

With this Data Byte, Dance Data Project® examines the role of resident choreographers at prominent dance companies for the third year annually. For the first time, this research analyzes 270 companies,<sup>2</sup> a significant increase from the 143 companies previously studied. Companies were sourced from the following lists, as defined by DDP in 2021:

- [Global Sample of 125 \(non-U.S.\) Ballet Companies](#)
- [Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies](#)
- [Next 50 U.S. Ballet Companies](#)
- [Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern Dance Companies](#)

From the sample of 270 companies, DDP identified 55 companies employing a total of 79 resident choreographers. The gender distribution, displayed below, is identical within 3% to the previous year's study.

## GLOBAL RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS

Global Resident Choreographers	
Women	25 (32%)
Men	54 (68%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

The following breakdown shows how resident choreographers are distributed within the categories of dance companies.

	Global (non-U.S.) Ballet Companies	Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies	Next 50 U.S. Ballet Companies	Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern Dance Companies
<b>Women</b>	9 (23%)	8 (36%)	3 (33%)	5 (50%)
<b>Men</b>	30 (77%)	14 (64%)	6 (67%)	5 (50%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

Notably, women are outnumbered by men in every category except one: the Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary & Modern Dance Companies. DDP's research has shown that this group operates with approximately 23% of the operating expenses of the Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies.

*Positions with titles equivalent to resident choreographer were included, such as choreographer in residence, associate choreographer, artist in residence, etc.. Artistic directors, who often serve as de facto resident choreographers, were excluded (ex: at San Francisco Ballet, Helgi Tomasson is Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer). Data was sourced from company websites, email newsletters, and dance publications.*

*For inquiries, please contact DDP Research Lead Michayla Kelly at [mkelly@dancedataproject.com](mailto:mkelly@dancedataproject.com).*

<sup>1</sup> For more information on compensation, see DDP's [2021 Artistic & Executive Leadership Report](#), page 17.

<sup>2</sup> Five companies were included in DDP's lists of both U.S. ballet companies and U.S. contemporary & modern dance companies. Only one of those five, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, employs a Resident Choreographer. This choreographer was counted once in the aggregate, but is shown in both categories in the breakdown.