

ADB.ATC 3M: Tips for successful lesson in choreography

Keep in mind that the choreography for musical theatre is meant to enhance the music and lyrics, not to take away from what is there. Some numbers are “showstoppers” and end up being what audiences remember most, but others just need subtle movement to bring attention to the story that is being told.

Be flexible. Choreography may need to be changed on the spot depending on the group of students you are working with. You may need to simplify the piece or add in more challenging elements for the more advanced students.

Sometimes students with the least amount of experience end up having the most creative choreographic ideas. Don't always depend on your experienced dancers to take charge.

When learning choreography, repetition is key.

For students who continue to have difficulties, place them near the front of the room, in a second row and behind someone during presentations. Knowing how to effectively use peripheral sight will help everyone involved in the choreographic creations.

Focus on the importance of not plagiarizing work of other choreographers. If the student, or the teacher, is lifting exact works of a choreographer, the proper steps must be taken to ensure there is no infringement on the rights of the work.