



## Taking a Dance Class or Dance Training? By Jacqueline Hill

Recently a customer asked me to review a dance teacher resume/bio for them. The list of dance classes the instructor claimed to take was long but offered no real explanation of actual background and training. Well, that's because there is a difference.

An instructors training is not made up of "classes" they take as a "dancer" or "teacher". It's just a class. I am thrilled to be able to educate parents of the difference.

Dance training is hard work. It does not happen for everyone or at every facility. Training can only take place when the instruction is done by someone qualified. It is a cycle; trained dancer trains to become instructor – instructor trains dancers to become proficient dancer – then repeat. Not all dancers become qualified instructors although they may teach "class".

The structure of training for the most professional dancer and instructor includes a reputable ballet program along with tap, jazz, modern and lyrical. The process is long, rewarding and offers longevity. To make the transition to an instructor dancers become assistants and apprentices spending time honing their skills as an instructor for many years.

The structure of "class" is less than training. One can not say they have trained with someone if it was a couple of hours here or there or at a convention. That is simply class. Dancers who have already thoroughly trained benefit from the challenge of different classes; especially if working in the business. But I stress – if your dancer does not have a solid background and knowledge the revolving door of classes and teachers will hamper any advancement. Too many styles, ideas and "techniques" will confuse a young dancer in training. Consistency, repetition, positivity, curriculum and a syllabus are the way to go. When your dancer can be assured of real technique, a solid core and center, correct placement and stretching "classes" are ok.

Remember while reviewing resumes/bios; class is just class. Training is the real background of professional instructors; not all dancers are qualified to teach. If an instructor does not welcome questions about their training and rattles off a resume of professional dance jobs; this is by no means the information you are looking for. The old saying "those who can do; those who can't, teach" holds no validity...Those who are trained in both do both; those who are not should not.

Go for the dance training! [www.elitedancestudios.net](http://www.elitedancestudios.net)