

I2: User Research

Description of Group Project

Dance is a cultural expression displayed by humans all around the world. Like everything in life, there are challenges that arise for dancers. Some of these challenges include: access to resources, comfortability in sharing dance moves, muscle memory, choreography, movement consistency and receiving constructive/positive feedback. Team Spotlight will create a user interface for dancers at all levels of experience to address some of these problems that dancers may face. Our team intends to track the motions of dancers with wearables, and apply that motion to an abstracted “character model” of the dancer (sort of like the character models in Just Dance). Doing so would provide self-conscious dancers a way of sharing their dance moves, and the ability to receive feedback without necessarily revealing their face or body to everybody who watches it. We plan on making the wearables more affordable (out of inexpensive led strips or cloth with accelerometers/gyroscopes) that might even light up or flash, so our wearable will add unique features to dancer’s performances, rather than detract from them.

Interview Questions (14 total)

- How long have you been a dancer?
- Would you consider yourself a recreational or a professional dancer?
- What genre/style of dancing do you practice?
- What’s your daily routine like when you are going to dance?
- How often do you practice dancing/how many hours a week do you dance?
- How do you learn new dances and what are some strengths/weaknesses of this process?
- How available are dancing resources to you? (i.e. dancing studios, dance instructors, dance programs, mentors, etc.)
- What do you enjoy the most about dancing, or what aspects of dancing give you a sense of accomplishment?

- What do you enjoy the least about dancing? (What takes the joy out of it/ annoys you the most during the dancing for you?)
- Are there any problems/inconveniences that you run into while trying to practice dancing?
- How, if at all, does dancing influence your everyday life/personal relationships?
- Do you find it difficult to share your dances with other people?
- Currently, are there any technologies or medias that you use to improve or assist your dancing experience? (i.e. tutorials, assisted choreography, educational apps, training apps etc.)
- If there were a piece of technology that were to be made for dancers, what do you think it should do? And why?

Interview Transcript

Q: How long have you been dancing?

A: 6 years.

Q: What got you into dancing?

A: Seeing people dance, I thought it was cool and wanted to learn. Also I watched Party Rock Anthem and wanted to learn how to shuffle.

Q: Would you consider yourself a recreational or a professional dancer?

A: Recreational.

Q: What genre/style of dancing do you practice?

A: Shuffling, gloving/electronic dancing, and casual hip hop dancing.

Q: What's your daily routine like when you are going to dance?

A: Entirely online tutorials, YouTube videos and specific sites. Learned how to dance poi (an electronic dance toy) on a website.

Q: How often do you practice dancing/how many hours a week do you dance?

A: About 5 hours a week at the most.

Q: How do you learn new dances and what are some strengths/weaknesses of this process?

A: Though online tutorials exclusively when starting out. Later on in my career, I learned at concerts by trade moves and by observing other people dancing. Strengths: it is very convenient and it is completely free. I can watch tutorials any time and I don't need anything except my device

Weaknesses: The lack of feedback is the biggest one. Online, it is like having a teacher that can't tell you how you are doing or how you can improve.

Q: How available are dancing resources to you? (i.e. dancing studios, dance instructors, dance programs, mentors, etc.)

A: Somewhat available if I wanted to seek out further resources I can talk to people or my parents about taking lessons but I never do. I never took lessons because of the time commitment. Part of me wishes I would have.

Q: What do you enjoy the most about dancing, or what aspects of dancing give you a sense of accomplishment?

A: Being able to move to music is satisfying. It is always nice when people watch and people tell me that what I am doing is cool/looks good. I also get the satisfaction of having a good workout (endorphin release).

Q: What do you enjoy the least about dancing? (What takes the joy out of it/ annoys you the most during the dancing for you?)

A: Certain moves or styles can be frustrating to learn at first, especially without an actual teacher. Having no feedback is difficult because it can be hard to judge yourself. When learning a move, it can be nerve racking to ask people to judge you.

Q: How, if at all, does dancing influence your everyday life/personal relationships?

A: Dancing increases my enjoyment of music and going to concerts, and especially listening and dancing to music in social situations. The fear of sharing my dance moves is lesser when everybody else is dancing.

Q: Do you find it difficult to share your dances with other people?

A: If nobody else is dancing and everybody is looking at me, it is difficult to share. Other than that it is fun. If I am doing a dance move that I am confident in, I enjoy sharing it with people.

Q: Currently, are there any technologies or medias that you use to improve or assist your dancing experience? (i.e. tutorials, assisted choreography, educational apps, training apps etc.)

A: YouTube most, but I also use other specific websites to certain styles of dancing. I use flow toys that light up and assist my dancing most of the time.

Q: If there were a piece of technology that were to be made for dancers, what do you think it should do? And why?

A: It should definitely have tutorials. Also, some sort of way to get feedback from other people. Other than that, maybe a way to play music through the app and a timer to see how long you have been dancing.