

WAY SURPRISING STUFF

- Did you know that tutus make us happy? In fact, these beautiful creations can increase the happiness levels of the ballet audience by 60%. Every little ballerina dreams of the day when she can take to the stage in a beautiful tutu. These stunning garments take up to 90 hours to create – that is almost 4 days.
- Many ballet costumes are so delicate, they cannot be washed between performances. Instead, costumes are hung up to air between shows and sprayed with a freshener.
- To help ballet dancers glide effortlessly across the dance floor, and prevent accidentally slipping, they rub rosin on the pointes and flats or their shoes. This yellow crystal is also used on string instruments like the violin, which helps the musician play better. Baseball pitchers also use it to improve their grip on the ball.
- Ballet dancers are incredibly fit and strong. A full performance equals running a half marathon or playing two full football matches. Male dancers are incredibly strong. They can lift over one to one a half tonnes' worth of ballerinas during a single performance, which is equal to the weight of an average car! During a full performance, ballerinas jumps combined are an impressive 900 feet or 275 meters into the air. That's almost as high as the Eiffel Tower!
- Ballet originated in Italy in the 15th Century. The word means to dance, to jump about. At first, the dancers wore masks, layer upon layer of brocaded costuming, pantaloons, large headdresses, and ornaments. Dance steps were composed of small hops, slides, curtsies, promenades, gentle turns. Women were not allowed to dance in public till the 1700s.
- In Romania, police officers have been known to take ballet classes so that they can manage traffic with more grace and ease.