Basic Ballet Terms

1. À terre of, or on the ground

2. Adage/Adagio ease, at leisure

3. Allégro brisk, lively

4. Arabesque basic ballet position w/ one leg extended in a straight position derrière

5. Assemblé assembled, joined together

6. Arrière, en backwards

7. Attitude basic ballet position with leg in bent position either devant, second, or derrière

8. Avant, en forwards

9. Battement beating – opening and closing of leg

10. Bras bas arms low, or down – Bras (arms) Bas (low)

11. Cambré bend of body from waist

12. Changement de pieds change of feet – 5th to 5th

13. Chassé chassed

14. Coupé cut, cutting

15. Croisé crossed – one of the basic body positions, diagonally crossed

16. Danseur male dancer

17. Danseuse female dancer

18. Dégagé disengaged

19. Demi half

20. Derrière behind/back

21. Détourné turned aside, turning aside

22. Devant In front

23. Développé to develop – developing

24. Écarté separated, thrown wide apart – one of the basic body positions – diagonally lateral

25. Effacé Shaded – one of the basic body positions – diagonally open

26. Elevé rise without a plié

27. En cloche like a bell

28. En croix shape of a cross

29. En dedans inwards

30. En dehors outwards

31. En l’air in the air

32. Entrechat interweaving – entrechat trios, entrechat quatre, etc.

33. Fermé closed

34. Fondu sinking/melting down

35. Frappé to strike

36. Glissade gliding step

37. Grand big/large

38. Grand Battment big/large opening and closing – big kick

39. Jeté, pas throwing step – jump from one leg to the other

40. Ouvert open

41. Pas step

42. Pas de bourrée step of bourrée – a 3 step connecting movent

43. Piqué pricked, pricking

44. Pirouette whirl – a turn on one leg

45. Plié to bend

46. Port de bras carriage of arms

47. Posé poised, poising

48. Quatriéme, à la to the 4th position

49. Relevé literally: relifted – spring up from plié to half toe, or full pointe

50. Retiré, passé withdrawn, passed

51. Révérence curtsy/bow – showing of respect/appreciation

52. Rond de jambe round of the leg – a circular movement of the leg

53. Sauté jumped/jumping

54. Sissonne a jump from two feet to one

55. Sous-sus under-over - a relevé to tight crossed 5th position

56. Soutenu en tournant sustained in turning

57. Sur le cou-de-pied On the neck of the foot

58. Temps levé time raised – generally a hop from one foot

59. Temps lié connected movement

60. Tendu/Tendue stretched

61. Tombé falling