The Ranks in a Ballet Company

Dancers in a ballet company are ranked by their skill level as well as the number of years that they have been performing!

**Principals**

Principals are the highest rank in a ballet company. They are the stars of the ballet!

Principals perform solos and "pas de deux" (pronounced "pah di duh"), which is a French term that means "step of two", or a dance with two dancers.

**Soloists**

These dancers are called soloists because their dances are usually performed alone.

Soloists perform supporting roles in a ballet that are smaller than the ones performed by the principal dancers.

**Corps de Ballet**

This French term, pronounced "core de bal-ay", means "the body of the ballet".

The corps dances as a group and will often provide a backdrop for the soloists and principals.