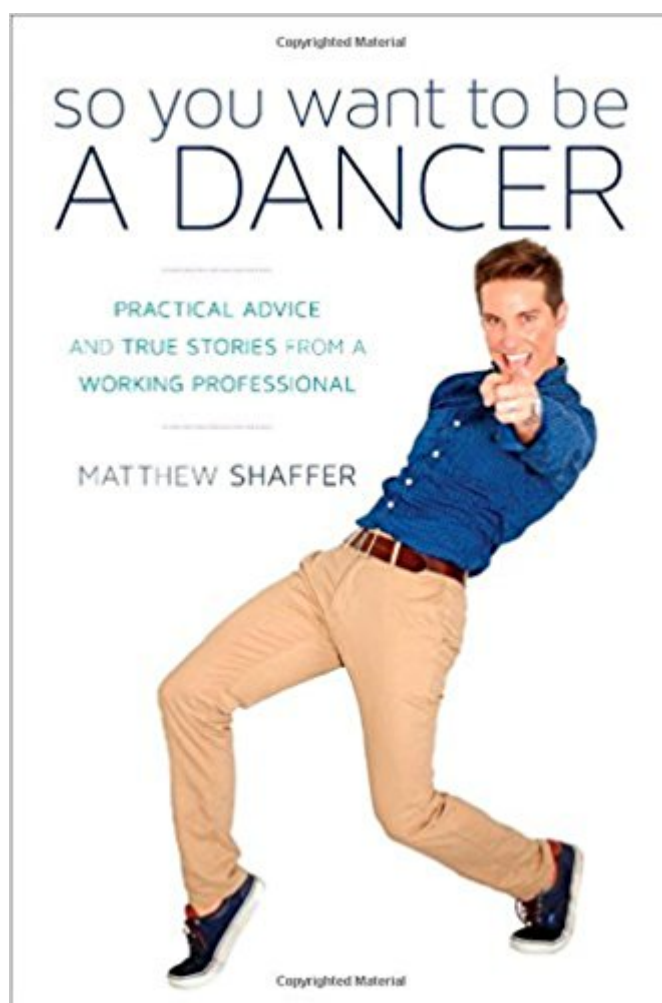


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# So You Want To Be A Dancer: Practical Advice And True Stories From A Working Professional



## Synopsis

Matthew Shaffer has spent more than twenty years as a performer, choreographer, director, Broadway collaborator, writer, and producer has allowed him opportunities to work with celebrities like Megan Mullally, Ben Stiller, and the elite competition team of Dance Moms. *So You Want to Be a Dancer* is the ultimate book for anyone who has to fight the urge to sashay down grocery store aisles or school hallways. Shaffer discusses everything from how to break into the industry to practical advice from how to audition and book a job to dealing with movie stars on-set. *So You Want To Be A Dancer* is a must-read for any creative entrepreneur, aspiring artist pursuing a career in today's social media-savvy society, or anyone who savors the heartfelt journey of an artist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Matthew Shaffer has written the kind of book I wish I would have had available to me as a young dancer. This is a great guide for young dancers and parents alike to understand the many different aspects of this crazy world we call 'show business'. If you are a dancer wanting to know more, I recommend you read this book! (Mandy Moore, two-time Emmy Award-nominated choreographer, *So You Think You Can Dance*) If you're planning a career in the industry as a dancer, do yourself a favor and read Matthew's book. His stories shed light into a world that is often difficult to navigate. It is full of insight and will inform you in invaluable ways. (Kenny Ortega, three-time Emmy Award-winning director and choreographer whose work includes *High School Musical* and *Dirty Dancing*) Matthew has created great insight into the world of dance. Such

important information for any dancer! (Tyce Diorio, Emmy Award-winning choreographer and artistic director)

Matthew Shaffer wrote, directed, and starred in his first production when he was seven years old and has been entertaining audiences (and family members) ever since! When Matthew isn't busy performing on stage and screen, he's traveling the globe as a master teacher and dance judge, and collaborating and creating work with Jeff Payton and their production company, A Group Production, in Los Angeles, California. For more please visit: [www.MatthewShaffer.com](http://www.MatthewShaffer.com) and follow @FunnyShaffer on Instagram & Twitter.

This is an exceptionally well-written, engaging, funny, and helpful book for dancers and those who love and support them. Matthew has crafted his book for a wide-ranging audience, from pre-teen ingenue to middle-aged parent. Interspersed with #DanceNotes and kitschy mini-anecdotes, Matthew's engaging and cleverly crafted tidbits are served in bite-sized portions for easy digestion and future research and reference. He is a storyteller, no doubt, and in his book he regales the reader with true tales from his professional life to illustrate and reinforce his sagacious and astute advice. In this not-so-new Millennium, Matthew's advice to "not let anyone define who you are or what you are capable of," can be applied across the spectrum of career pursuit. Shaffer reassures the reader, "Follow your passion and trust in your path. You control your future." This is excellent encouragement not just for dancers, actors, and other creative folk, but for the 9-to-5 average Joe. Shaffer's prescriptions can be applied to anyone who wants to create meaningful work that impacts others, whether they're a dancer or a dietician.

I'm a dance mom part time, but a full time pharmacist who takes care of patients all day and really has no idea of the inside dance world. Matthew's book is a "must read" for any mom in my situation who has a child ready to go to college for dance...and does not know what life has in store for them! I read the book in a day as Matthew's writing kept me engrossed so that I couldn't put it down. I definitely laughed out loud as I was reading, but now also understand the serious hard work it takes to "make it" in this competitive business. The reference material in the back of the book is vital for those making life and college choices...thank you, Matthew, for putting it all in one place for me! And thank you for sharing your inspiring stories! :)

From the moment I opened this book, I knew this is finally the book that every dance parent needs

to read. As a professional dancer, it is like reading your own thoughts about the industry you could never put into words!!! Finally a book that touches base on the realities of being/having a child with talent... And what to do with that talent! I laughed! I cried! I cheered! I applaud Matthew Schaffer on writing a book I wish I would have had as a young dancer itching to work professionally. BRAVO!!! I will recommend it to EVERYONE!!!

As a dance teacher and judge myself, I found this book to be an incredible resource for aspiring young artists. Matthew combines his knowledge with his wit to create a fun yet practical look at the professional dance world. His insight is an invaluable tool for anyone considering a career in the industry. A must read!!!!

Great book and story of his life. Gives a lot of advice and feedback to anyone interested in making a future with Dance and entertainment. His wit is very funny and he is a down to Earth person who writes with great emotion. It will make you laugh and understand how hard he has had to work to make it..

Dear, Matthew Shaffer thank you for giving me your book. Just by reading 17 pages of your wonderful book I have been so inspired. Like you said this book has made me laugh even if I'm just a little kid. P.S. I'm ten. You have inspired me to change the world and make mistakes, take risks and be myself. I am so glad that you have written this book! I hope you also have a great summer.Love AshleyYour #1 Fan

I have rarely met another dancer more passionate and dedicated to the world of dance, acting, and simply entertaining! This book is going to help so many young dancers as well as aspiring adults to figure out this crazy world and how to succeed to the best of their abilities! You WILL want to read this!!

Matthew Shaffer has compiled a comprehensive professional how-to book for the dance world inside the entertainment industry that is so lively and fun! It's like you're jete-ing through the pages and landing in the middle of a perfect audition, a bravo stage, and booming film set. Truly an informative and entertaining read for anyone who is interested in the entertainment industry. I love this book!

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