

The choreographer I choose to study was Mandy Moore who has choreographed for So You Think You Can Dance for eight years. When Mandy creates a dance she really uses the stage and tells her dancers to not to be afraid of any lifts or very extended reaches. Watching a lot of her pieces she loves to use negative spaces. On So You Think You Can Dance she makes the partners a family or a community. When they work with Mandy Moore, they all love her and she pushes them. None of her dances are the same as the last, and they all have different meanings behind it. Mandy as a teacher mainly works with duets but there are a couple times that the judges pick her to do the group choreography.

I started watching Mandy Moore the very first year I started watching So You Think You Can Dance. Over the years I've learned more about her. She has been nominated for an Emmy four times. Her movements are really down to the ground, but she grabs the audience's attention. She really likes to acquire that family groove or feeling.

Mandy Moore also choreographs for halftime shows. She really likes the opportunity with working with such a large group of dancers of all ages and talents. Groups come from all over. There can be groups of dancers that have been competing all their lives, and groups of dancers that thought a half time show might be a fun experience. Mandy really enjoys watching new dancers next to experienced dancers, and giving choreography and some teaching. The show is exciting for the audience, and it is memorable for the dancers. Having such a large "stage" and so many dancers give her, as the choreographer, a unique experience. She really likes it.

As a lifelong studio dancer, Mandy is really about technique, but she believes in more freedom of movement. Since she grew up in a studio forever, she does focus on the technique. If dancers don't have it, she will change moves. But she doesn't think that people should stop at the technique boundary. She thinks dancers should push it and expand on the technique that you have. I think that Mandy really gets to both of our themes this year, community and mosaic. Watching Mandy's dances on So You Think You Dance always give the feelings of one or both of our themes.

One of my favorite dances she choreographed was from Annie. "It's a Hard Knock Life" is a song that is hated by anyone who has ever gone to more than one dance competition.

Mandy Moore did such a great job with the number that it was really fun to watch. She used a lot of props and made the dance fun and interesting.

I watched an interview with Mandy Moore on youtube. Mandy talked about how she thinks about choreographing a piece. Mandy said that she had so much in her head. She sees so much of the dance in her head that it is always her challenge to get it into the dancer's head, form it to their bodies, in the space. She says that she sees too much in her head. I think that Mandy Moore is one of the best choreographers around today.