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GEAR & GADGETS

CAMERA: **iPhone 4**

I take photos with my iPhone camera. In fact, taking pictures is the main thing I do with my phone. My case even has a picture of a camera on it. Taking photos is a creative, tactile outlet for me, something that I can do with my hands.

When you dance, all your work disappears; it's gone immediately. I find photos so gratifying because they don't disappear—you get to keep them, hold them and possess them.

MUSIC SERVICE: **Pandora**

My husband and I have set up all kinds of stations on Pandora—we love it. He has introduced me to a lot of new music, but I also get ideas on music to listen to from my choreographer friends. Music apps are going to be my next obsession.

PHOTO SHARING SITE: **Instagram**

My friend Janie Taylor, who's also in the New York City Ballet, inspired me to check out Instagram. I've become filter-obsessed. I love how they make a bad picture suddenly good—it can make me not so attractive in one photo and really attractive in another. I also like being able to connect with other people. I follow a ton of dancers from all over world—members of the Kirov Ballet, the Royal Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet and dance students. I get to see what my friends in Europe are up to. Even if we've never even met, I feel like the people I follow are friends because I know all about them from their photos. [Ms. Whelan's Instagram page is at instagram.com/wendyw.]

CHOREOGRAPHY TOOL: **iPad**

I got my iPad about a year ago, when I started working on "Restless Creature" [a collaboration with the choreographers and dancers Kyle Abraham, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks and Alejandro Cerrudo]. The piece is all about new choreography, and the iPad has been my technological savior for this project. We would videotape ourselves rehearsing, then we'd use Dropbox to share the videos with each other. We were always going back and forth with folders of material that we wanted to focus on—it really helped in building a project completely from the iPad. "Restless Creature" just premiered and it's gotten great responses, so I guess I have the iPad to thank for that.



MY TECH ESSENTIALS

Wendy Whelan

The New York City Ballet principal dancer and avid Instagrammer discusses her favorite photo apps and the key role an iPad played in choreographing her latest work

PHOTO-FILTERING APP:

Dynamic Light

When I found this app, I really felt as if I'd won the lottery. It makes images look drawn or painted, like a fairy-tale or storybook illustration. It's especially great for clouds; it can make a cloudy sky or sunset look really dramatic. I love that kind of look for my pictures. I found Dynamic Light by looking on Instagram—sometimes people hashtag photos with the app they use. I discovered a lot of my favorite photo apps that way.

PHOTO-EDITING APP:

Filterstorm

I use Filterstorm to prep my photos for Instagram by sharpening, brightening or especially straightening them (I have a real thing for straight images). Filterstorm is the easiest way to get a photo just the way I want it before putting it through other filtering apps.

—Edited from an interview by
Laura Moser