

PERFORMANCE GUIDE: ZODIAQUE DANCE COMPANY

*Prepared by
Kerry Ring, Director Zodiaque Dance Company
Jeanne Fornarola, Director UB Dance*



How to Watch a Dance Performance

What is Dance?

Dance reflects societies views on life

- The body is the instrument
- Dance is the art form of expression
- Each movement matters
- Sometimes it goes by so quickly it causes sensory overload and you can't rewind!

There are two types of Dance

- **Spectator Dance** – concert dance, you view this as an audience member
- **Participatory Dance** – this is the type of dance where you are the dancer maybe at a wedding, or a homecoming dance

What should I expect? Is it like a movie?

- You can't talk to your friends while watching ...or snack.....or text
- Access to repeat performance is infeasible, because it happens in the here and now

What if I don't get it?

- It's OK! It's for you to decide and it can be whatever you think it's about and that's called **Interpretation**.
- Remember there is no "right answer" It's nice when there is no right or wrong way of looking at something
- Dance by nature produces multiple interpretations

Here are some tips to make your dance experience meaningful:

- Pay attention to your intuition
- How are you reacting?
- What are you feeling?
- How does this relate to your life?

Visually – what do you see?



- **Who** is doing what?
- **Where on the stage** is the action taking place?
- Do the **costumes** help your understanding?
- How does the **lighting** help create the mood?

Aurally -what do you hear?



- What is the style of the music?
- What instruments do you hear?
- Are there lyrics or words?
- Is it instrumental?
- Do the dancers ever move in silence?
- What sounds do the dancers make?
- Can you hear their breath?
- Their Feet?

Kinesthetically – How are the dancers moving?



- Perceive in your muscles and bones what it must be like to perform the dance
- What is going on in your own body (clothes too tight, itchy, hungry, tapping your foot)

Thinking – ask yourself questions

- “I wonder who wrote the music”
- “I wonder how long this piece will last”
- “I wonder how they feel”



Sensing – What is the difference between sensing and thinking?



Subtle factors contribute to sensing

- Conflict
- Struggle
- Happy
- Sad

Relating - what does the dance mean to you?



- Connecting between what’s on stage and your own life
- All aspects of the dance impact the viewers response to the dance

Imagining – trust your inner voice

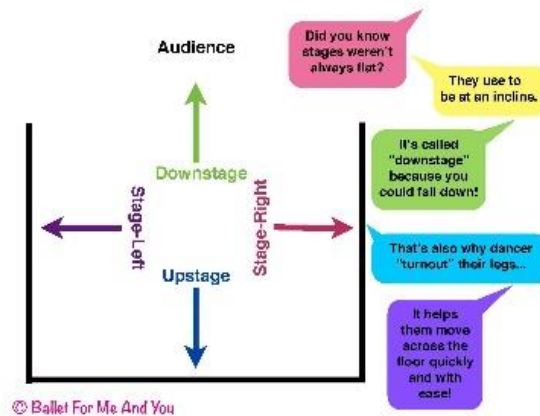


- Creating your own narratives
- Don’t disregard your own personal interpretations as a relevant source
- Be alert to your inner self

What is the Theater like?

- This Drama Theater at UB is a 388-seat theatre and the venue for most of our fully produced shows, from large-scale dramas to Broadway musicals to performances by Zodiaque, the department's dance company.

University at Buffalo Center for the Arts
Buffalo, New York
Drama Theater



For Teachers:

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS

- *The Zodiaque Dance Company Lecture Demonstration Connects to the National Core Arts Standards in Dance:*

http://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=893257&module_id=241495

CROSS DISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

- *Geography*
 - Understand the relationship between people, places, depend on an understanding of topography, climate, and environment

- *Language Arts – many aspects of dance adapt to movement and movement based activities increase linguistic processing*
 - Poetry
 - Creative Writing
 - Communication in a variety of forms
 - *Observe, read, listen interpretatively*

- *Math – understand the relationship between related mathematical concepts as applied to dance*
 - Sequencing
 - As a science of patterns
 - Geometry/Shape
 - Levels

- *Music – music and choreographic forms in dance, share similar structure*
 - Form and Structure – ABA, Rondo, Call and Response
 - Instruments
 - Interpretation
 - Genre

- *Science – relies on higher order thinking the scientific process and the dance and the creative arts are similar in this way*
 - Physical Fitness and Healthy Living
 - Cardiovascular health
 - Flexibility, Strength, Coordination
 - Brain/Mind Principles
 - Energy – dynamics, force, effort, flow

- *Social Studies – individuals dance within societal expectations and genre*
 - Cultural Awareness Through Dance
 - Reflects the values and beliefs of different societies
 - Respect for diverse cultural heritages

- *Visual Arts – dance and visual art explores geometric and organic shape that have length, width, depth, and volume*
 - Color
 - Design
 - Symmetry and Asymmetry