

Looking at Dance

When you see Ballet Hispanico perform, (or any other dance), here are some questions to help focus your attention and that incorporate the elements of dance

POSTURES AND GESTURES

- What feelings or mood do the dancers' movements make you think of?
- Are the movements fast or slow, repetitious or changing, angular or curved?
- What parts of the body are used most?
- What gestures are repeated more than once? Why do you think they are being repeated?
- What do the dancers' facial expressions tell you?
- If the dancers spoke, what do you think they would say?

SPATIAL PATTERNS

- What groupings do you see? (Solos, duets, larger groups?) How do the groupings change?
- What "designs" on the floor do the dancers form onstage? (Circles, lines, squares?) Do they move forward and back, across, on a diagonal? Are some of these patterns repeated?

MUSIC

- What instrument(s) do you hear? Is there singing? In what language?
- Is the music fast or slow? Does it change during the dance? In what ways?
- If you close your eyes, what mood does the music create? How might you describe the music?
- Do the dancers' movements connect with the music? If so how?

THEATRICAL EFFECTS

- Besides the performers that you see, who else might have helped make this dance possible? (Choreographer, Costume Designer, Lighting Designer, Musicians, Stage Manager...)
- Describe the stage set, lighting, costumes, and the props used. Do they help you understand more about the piece? If so, how?
- Does the lighting change during the piece? In what ways? What kind of affect does the lighting have on the dancers' movements?
- What are the costumes? How do the costumes influence your understanding of the dance?