

Ballet Hispánico

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: EDUARDO VILARO



Workshops and Performance for Young People

Mad'moiselle

Program Information, Context, Activities, and Resources

Exploring Dance

Mad'moiselle

Elements of Dance

Dance is an art form and language in which movement is the medium for communicating ideas, feelings, and experiences. The elements of dance provide a means through which the ideas communicated in movement can be translated into verbal language. They are foundational concepts that help us describe and understand the dance we see and do.

Space: refers to the space through which the dancer's body moves (general or personal space, level, size, direction, pathway, focus).

Time: is applied as both musical and dance elements (beat, tempo, speed, rhythm, sudden, slow, sustained).

Force/Energy: the force applied to dance to accentuate the weight, attack, strength, and flow of a dancer's movement (sharp, strong, light, heavy, bound, free-flow).

Relationship: refers to the relationship the dancers' body parts have to everything else (spatial relationships, time relationships, relationship to music, and to each other).

Edited from Creative Dance for all Ages, Anne Green Gilbert and Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) from the Dance Education Laboratory (DEL), 92nd Street Y

For further reading and additional activities on 'Elements of Dance' visit the Ballet Hispanico website:

<http://www.balleshispanico.org/education-outreach/resources>

Suggested Activities

After reviewing the elements of dance listed above with students, have them view a clip of the piece *Mad'moiselle* on the Ballet Hispanico website (*Resources Section of Education & Outreach*), afterwards have them write down the different elements of dance they noticed. They can then discuss what they observed.

- Also available for viewing:
 - *Tres Cantos*
 - *Naci*



Mad'moiselle (2010) Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

The work references the many Marias in Latin America. It combines contemporary dance and layered music to investigate male/female images and gender role playing in Hispanic cultures. During her youth, Lopez Ochoa felt obstructed by her own multi-cultural heritage. She related more closely to her European roots as she was raised in Belgium, and did not speak Spanish until later in life. Throughout her childhood, she was haunted by the duality of her heritage and searched for alternative mediums of communication. She began combining art forms as a means of self-expression. Creating *Mad'moiselle* allowed her to delve deeper into the relationships of her cultural heritage and to connect more closely to her Latino roots. Inspired by her childhood memories, the piece makes direct and indirect references to the highly symbolic and vastly used name "Maria," which is revered and respected in Latin American cultures for its many layered implications. Each performing "Maria" embodies diverse emotions on stage from sensitivity to maturity to sensuality to hysteria, in order to project the complexity and depth of her femininity.



Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

Ms. Ochoa, who is half-Colombian and half-Belgian, completed her dance training at the Royal Ballet Academy in Antwerp, Belgium. She appeared with various German companies before eventually joining Djazzx, a contemporary dance company. In 1993, she joined Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, where she was a soloist for seven years. Since leaving her performing career, Ms. Ochoa has choreographed works for the Scapino Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, The Royal Ballet of Flanders, Ballet du Grand Theatre du Geneve, Ankara Modern Dance Theatre, Ballet X, and Pennsylvania Ballet. She has also worked outside of traditional dance companies, choreographing for theater, opera, and musicals.

Further Resources

Choreographers/Musicians

Talley Beatty

Long, Richard A. *The Black Tradition in American Dance*. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1989

Perpener, John O. *African-American Concert Dance: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond*. University of Illinois Press, 2001

Talley Beatty in: www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/-documentary that chronicles the role that African-American choreographers and dancers have played in the development of modern dance as an American art form

Douglas Rosenberg, dir., *Talley Beatty: Conversations with Contemporary Masters of American Modern Dance* (American Dance Festival, 1993)

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa - www.redcircles.nl

Andrea Miller - <http://www.gallimdance.com/andrea-miller>

Vincent Nebrada - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente_Nebrada

William Whitener - <http://www.kcballet.org/aboutus/company/artisticdirector>

Tito Puente

Tito Puente - King of Latin Music (Book) by Jim Payne and Tito Puente (2006)

Tito Puente: When The Drums Are Dreaming by Josephine Powell (2007)

Books for Young Readers

4-8 Years Old

Alvin Ailey Andrea Pinkney (Author), Brian Pinkney (Illustrator)

Brazil (A to Z) Justine Fontes; Ron Fontes

Carnaval, George Ancona

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance (Stories to Celebrate)

Alma F. Ada & F. Isabel Campoy

Dance! With Bill T. Jones; Susan Kuklin

Dancing in the Wings; Debbie Allen (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator)

A Dictionary of Dance; Liz Murphy

José! Born to Dance: The Story of José Limón; Susanna Reich and

Raul Colon (Illustrator)

Kitchen Dance; Maurie J. Manning

Mexico ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of Mexico (Country Abcs)

Heiman (Author), Sarah (Author), Ouren (Illustrator), Todd (Illustrator)

Mis Bailes/My Dances (We Are Latinos); George Ancona; Children's Press

My Friend Maya Loves to Dance; Cheryl Willis Hudson

9-12 Years Old

Brazil (True Books); Tara Walters

Capoeira: Game! Dance! Martial Art!; George Ancona

Dance (DK Eyewitness Books); Andre Grau (Author)

Festivals of the World: Brazil; McKay, Susan

The History of Latin Music; Dorothy Hoobler

Mexico (True Books); Elaine Landau

Mexico: 40 Activities to Experience Mexico Past & Present; Kaleidoscope Kids

Modern Dance (High Interest Books); Cheryl Tobey

Latin and Ballroom (Dance) Susie Hodge; *young adult*

Watch Me Dance: Family Celebration Board Books; Andrea Davis Pinkney; *pre-school*

Film

Mad Hot Ballroom, Documentary about New York City students learning ballroom dance



Ballet Hispanico

Education & Outreach

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Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves, and celebrates Latino cultures through dance. The mission unfolds in the work of the professional Company, the School of Dance, and the Education & Outreach programs. Together, these divisions celebrate the dynamic aesthetics of the Hispanic diaspora, building new avenues of cultural dialogue and sharing the joy of dance with all communities.

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