

# Ballet Hispánico

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: EDUARDO VILARO



Workshops and Performance for Young People

## Nací

Program Information, Context, Activities, and Resources

# Exploring Dance

## Nací

### Making Meaning/Body Language

In everyday life, body language (gestures, movement, facial expressions) conveys a lot of emotion. People watching a dance performance tend to make connections between the movements and an emotion. They often create a story, even if the dance they are watching is not in narrative form.

### Suggested Activities

#### Activity A

- Sit the students in a circle on the floor. Ask them to imagine that they are feeling sad, and to show it in their bodies. Then ask them to sit as though they were feeling happy. Alternate the two contrasting emotions and resulting body postures. Observe and discuss physical changes they saw and experienced.
- Ask a student to create one movement, using any or all parts of the body, based on an everyday action or event of his/her choice: walking to school, riding a bus, watering the garden, shoveling snow, brushing your hair, etc. Now, ask the student to pick a card with an adverb of feeling written on it (sadly, hopefully, cheerfully, angrily, absent-mindedly, etc.). Ask the rest of the group to guess what emotion is being portrayed by the body language.
- Have class develop a list of common actions performed in the course of daily life: brushing teeth/hair, riding bike, walking. Then ask them to assign a movement/gesture/posture that will go with each action. Pick 4 or 5 to perform sequentially. Audience members can share orally or write the story they see in each group's performance.

#### Activity B

- **A picture is worth a thousand words.** Divide participants into groups of 4 or 5. Each group will focus on one of the two pictures on the following pages. Have students look at the image and ask them to brainstorm words or phrases that come to mind. Consider using the following questions/categories:
  - What words would you use to **describe** the image?
  - What **verbs** or action words do you see?
  - How does the image make you **feel**?
  - How would you describe the **shapes** made by the dancers' bodies?
- Have each group pick 4 words that they brainstormed and ask them to create a tableaux that can be photographed.



#### Nací (2009) Andrea Miller

Contemporary choreographer Andrea Miller, drawing from the duality of her Spanish and Jewish-American background, brings her distinctive voice to an exploration of Sephardic culture from Spain in *Nací*. The piece is set to the stirring echoes of classical, klezmer, and folkloric music by Tony Galif, A Hawk and a Hacksaw, and Capilla Antigua de Chinchilla.



#### Andrea Miller

Andrea Miller is Artistic Director and Choreographer of New York based Gallim Dance. Upon graduating from the Juilliard School, Miller joined Ohad Naharin's

Ensemble Batsheva in Tel Aviv. In 2007 she returned to establish Gallim Dance. Miller's works have been performed throughout the US, Canada and Europe. She was awarded the 2009 Princess Grace Foundation Fellowship in Choreography, the 2010 Princess Grace Foundation USA Works in Progress Award, the Youth America Grand Prix Choreographers Award, and was selected for Dance Magazine's 2009 "25 to Watch."

# Exploring Dance

## Nací

Making Meaning/Body Language: Activity B



# Exploring Dance

## Nací

Making Meaning/Body Language: Activity B



# 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](http://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](http://www.redcircles.nl)

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

**Vincent Nebrada** - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente\\_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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Page 3: Company in Naci © Rosalie O'Connor

Page 4: Vanessa Valecillos in Naci © Rosalie O'Connor

Page 5: Education & Outreach © Rachel Watts

**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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