Dance Reconstruction or Re-Creation Project

Reconstructing or re-creating a dance as an extended project requires more than learning about the dance. In addition to learning and perfecting the dance work, a reconstruction requires substantial research about the dance work, choreographer, music, costuming, and performance attributes. Underlying these components of dance and interrelated arts is an understanding of the historical period and the relationship of the dance work and the choreographer’s body of work.

# Proposal and Presentation Outline

Title of the dance

Choreographer

Music

Dancer(s)

Costumes

Style

Video or DVD source title; website title and URL

Composer

* Style
* Other works

Supporting Research

* Photographs
* Visual art works of the period
* Related arts of the period
* Historical, political, and social setting of the dance work

# Dance

Why did you select this dance to reconstruct?

Give the audience a synopsis of the work (by parts if more than one part) and include the following information:

* Story, theme, or idea of the dance
* Types and qualities of the movements (give examples of movement to the audience)
* Musical accompaniment
* Original costume and set designs or technology
* Other important features (including information the audience would not know from simply viewing the dance, but information you learned from your research of the dance and the choreographer; for example, in *Cry,* the circular movements over the floor are symbolic of a woman scrubbing the floor)

What is the significance of the dance?

* Within the choreographer’s body of work
* Within that time period and genre

Findings: What did you learn about the dance from reconstructing it? What did you learn about the choreographer and the work within the context of the history and society of the times?

Conclusion: Why is this dance important?

# Presentation Outline

Introduction: For your audience, cover the items from your reconstruction project outline. Be able to describe the dance using kinetic words as well as to convey to your audience a synopsis of the work. Relate the dance to the context of the historical and cultural time frame in which the dance was created. As you prepare your presentation, consult the interrelated arts model and the Dance Designs form (found in Continuing Activities) for additional topics to consider as part of your project presentation.

Time your presentation. It should be five minutes in length. The reconstruction project should be presented with accompanying PowerPoint slides. The slides should include photos and video clips from the reconstructed dance. The slides could also include short video interviews with the dancers.

Present reconstruction research.

Perform the dance.

Audience questions and discussion. For this section of the project, both the reconstructor and the dancers should be present to answer and discuss the process and performance.