Chapter 13

Global Interactions: 2000–2016

# Overview

The early years of the 21st century have been called the transmedia era, the portal to the multi-universe. In this era people seem to be moving through parallel dimensions connected to media and where globalization has accelerated historical time.

Dance as a performing art, dance as competition, and dance as entertainment have all emerged as distinct yet linked areas of the discipline. Dance in larger perspectives has become a rapidly growing part of a physical and cognitive activity for people of all ages.

In contemporary ballet, diverse dancers and choreographers brought their training and styles to new performance media. Their intent is to express ballet in new, unique, and expanded ways, yet to honor the classics and 20th-century works.

Contemporary modern dance artists from the 20th century embrace the 21st century and its changes. Cultural forms (either traditional or fused with various dance genres and styles) express ideas of a single choreographer or a community of dancers. Dance is performed by humans interacting with robots or dancers moving in multimedia environments rich with sound, video, and telematics.

The lines continue to blur between what is considered contemporary ballet and what is considered contemporary post-postmodern dance. Rather, dances are based on the choreographer’s background and designed by the choreographer’s imagination as to the intent of the work.

# Activities and Assignments

## Activity 1. Trends

What are some of the societal issues and trends from the last decade of the 20th century to 2016? Map them out on a time line and write a conclusion—a proof paragraph that summarizes these issues and trends. What do you think will be the next evolutionary form for postmodern dance? In 2025? In 2050? Write a one- to two-page prediction paper.

## Activity 2: 25 to Watch

Since 2000, *Dance Magazine* has annually published a list of 25 dancers to watch. The magazine’s picks are people with different dance backgrounds, ideas, and dreams of where the next steps in their dance paths could take them. With this many being selected each year, whose works do you think will survive or thrive in this changing choreographic climate?

Review *Dance Magazine*’s “25 to Watch” from the years 2000, 2005, 2010, and the most recent year. Then select 5 dancers from the year 2000, and create a spreadsheet to show what the dancers you selected are doing today.

As a group activity, each member of the group selects a dancer or choreographer and traces that person’s career from when the time he or she was introduced in “25 to Watch” to the present. Or, as a class, each group selects the year 2000, 2005, 2010, or the present year. Then each person in a group selects a dancer to follow on his or her career path into the present.

### Activity 3: Classical and Contemporary Ballet

Select a classical or 20th-century ballet that has been re-created in the 21st century. Find and watch a video of the original version of the ballet and then the 21st-century re-creation of the work. Write a one-page summary of the original ballet’s plot, theme, or acts and then a summary for the 21st-century choreography. Write a one-page summary to compare and contrast the two ballets.

### Activity 4: 20th-Century Modern Dance and Contemporary Postmodern Dance

Select a choreographer and one of their prominent 20th-century modern dances and then a 21st-century contemporary modern dance that the choreographer has created. Write a one-page summary of the original modern dancer and then the 21st-century contemporary modern dance.

Write a one-page summary to compare and contrast the two works from different periods of the choreographer’s body of work.

# Web Links

Dancing through the Decade, 2000–2013  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zowlpiUOcYs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zowlpiUOcYs)

William Forsythe solo  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDTu7jF\_EwY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDTu7jF_EwY)

William Forsythe, *Steptext*[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja5gyP0XjPs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja5gyP0XjPs)

William Forsythe, *The Second Detail*[www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUiDIT-ySxI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUiDIT-ySxI)

Gaga dance  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KihUi5NBMk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KihUi5NBMk)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzXhcNFXwYM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzXhcNFXwYM)

Batsheva Dance Company  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRky99sO-og](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRky99sO-og)

# Review Questions

1. What was society like during the era of global interaction in the early part of the 21st century?
2. Who were the choreographers and other contributors to ballet and modern dance during this period?
3. What were the dances, music, other arts, and media that supported dance performances during this period?
4. What were the significant dances, ballets, modern dance works, and dance literature of the period?

# Vocabulary

## Ballet

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

American Ballet Theatre (ABT)

Arpino, Gerald

Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet

Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Joffrey Ballet

Johnson, Virginia

Martins, Peter

McKenzie, Kevin

Mitchell, Arthur

New York City Ballet (NYCB)

Peck, Justin

Ratmansky, Alexei

San Francisco Ballet

Schreier, Claudia

Tomasson, Helgi

Wheater, Ashley

Wheeldon, Christopher

## Contemporary Modern Dance

Abraham, Kyle

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

American Dance Festival (ADF)

Battle, Robert

Brown, Camille A.

Brown, Trisha

Cunningham, Merce

José Limón Dance Company

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

Martha Graham Dance Company

Morris, Mark

Paul Taylor Dance Company and Paul Taylor’s American Modern Dance

Tanowitz, Pam

Tharp, Twyla

## Transmedia

contemporary

DanceSport

electro dance

Forsythe, William

Gaga

Jacob’s Pillow

krumping

multi-universe

Naharin, Ohad

neuroaesthetics

Shen Wei

transmedia era