

Study Guide for Teachers

Storeography

Adam Battelstein and Friends

Lecture/Demonstration
Grades K-12



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Connecticut



OBJECTIVES

- To entertain and also provide strategies for interpreting dance
- To emphasize Language Arts vocabulary
- To demonstrate the building blocks of a dance through observation and participation
- To encourage participants to engage each work of art with their imaginations and create their own personal myth or story

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Adam Battelstein has been teaching for Pilobolus around the country and internationally for many years as their master teaching artist. He also serves as a master teaching artist for the state of Connecticut's Commission on Culture and Tourism.

STOREOGRAPHY

Storeography is a one-hour lecture demonstration that will introduce young audiences to the tools and ideas that will help them better understand dance. Dance is a language and it does have a narrative aspect. It has connections with both poetry and prose: Like prose it is propelled not only by a series of chronological events but also by behavior, emotion, symbolism, textures and juxtaposed images. Like poems, dances are puzzles and they can be "solved" by paying close attention to a whole variety of clues.

We will identify some of these clues such as costumes, props, music, the actions and emotions of the characters that can be related to the real world. We will emphasize vocabulary that connects dance to language arts such as: Plot, Character Development, and Subtext. Viewers will be asked to put these clues together and with the use of their own imaginations and their personal experience come up with their own stories.

The lecture demonstration will include four complete dances, each with an introduction before followed by a question and answer session. There will also be an audience participation section in which the students help to build a simple dance.

Program Length: 50-60 minutes

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Begin K – W – L chart on Dance
(What do you know, Want to know, Want to Learn)

Discuss: What is Dance?

- Is dance something you watch or participate in?
- Is there always music?
- What does the dancer need to perform a dance?
- Can you imagine dancing a story?
- Who creates the dances that you have seen?
- What is the creator of dances called?
- Is dance for girls or boys or both?

TERMINOLOGY AND IDEAS TO SHARE

- Dance
- Prop
- Improvisation
- Obstacle
- Attitude
- Emotion
- Character
- Demonstrate
- Interpret
- Imagine

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Discuss:

- What did the performance/workshop teach you about dance that you did not already know?
- What did the performance/workshop teach you about balance?
- Can you make a dance of your own?
 - Based on a story?
 - Using a prop?

CURRICULAR LINKS

Connecticut State Department of Education

Source: The CT Framework – Dance

- ✚ Standard 1: Elements and Skills
Students will demonstrate the following movement skills and explain the underlying principles: alignment, balance, initiation of movement, articulation of isolated body parts, weight shift, elevation and landing.
- ✚ Standard 2: Choreography
Students will create a sequence or simple dance with a beginning, middle and end, both with and without a rhythmic accompaniment, and identify each of these sequence parts
- ✚ Standard 3: Meaning
Students will observe and explain how different accompaniment (such as sound, music, spoken text) can affect the meaning of a dance.

SUMMARY OF DANCES

Figure Stick

- A physical and at times psychological exploration of a magic stick using music by Yo Yo Ma.

After Hours

- A new dance that playfully explores the love/hate relationship that boys often have with dance. The fine line that exists between silly and macho is exuberantly physicalized by two irrepressible characters in their pajamas.

Suitcase Man

- Takes us into the world of Shel Silverstein with a hint of Edward Albee. The suitcase man tells us his story from inside a suitcase. He claims that he likes it inside the suitcase but as the story unfolds, we are not sure we believe him.

Let's Build a Dance Together

- This is a quasi-improvisational scenario in which two characters meet. The audience will provide suggestions as to how the story should proceed. As we try out different possibilities, it will become clear that to make the story interesting we need to provide emotions, attitudes and obstacles.

Wayward Gallery

- An upside down retelling of the myth of Pygmalion. In this case the sculptor is a woman. Her attempts to make the perfect man backfire in hilarious and unpredictable ways.

WORKSHOP

Up to 25 students and a CD player with space enough for all to move about freely are the requirements for the Storeography workshop.



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