

Introduction to Modern Dance

1. What caused modern to form? (Where did it stem from?)
2. In modern dance, what purpose would dance serve?
3. List 6 characteristics of modern dance.
4. What position of the hips do you most often work out of in modern dance?
5. What type of shoes are worn in modern dance?
6. What social issues in history developed at the beginning of modern?
7. What did those first modern dances look like?

The Beginning of Modern Dance: The Founders

8. Who is Isadora Duncan?
9. What did Isadora Duncan believe about ballet?
10. What was Isadora's "dance attire" like?
11. What was an important component of Isadora Duncan's modern dance?
12. What was her U.S. popularity like during her career?
13. How did Isadora die? (This is not in the powerpoint...you'll need to research this)
14. What did Ruth St. Denis believe about dance?
15. What was the name of Ruth St. Denis' dance company? Who did she form it with?
16. Who were the most famous students of Denishawn?

The Big Four: The Pioneers of Modern Dance

17. Who were the “big four” choreographers?

18. What was theme of dances from the “big four”?

19. In 1935, what did these modern dance pioneers begin?

20. Martha Graham is probably considered the legend of modern dance. What did she develop?

21. What did she found in dance education?

22. What was the name of her dance company and who were two of her students?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgf3xgbKYko&feature=related>

27. Martha Graham believed that dance was an art and should be an expression of the artist. What is the theme of the piece titled “Lamentation”?
28. How does the choreography in this piece demonstrate this theme?
29. What modern concepts specific to Graham are found in her choreography and give examples.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzD5msOsQhA&feature=related>

30. This is an ensemble piece of Martha Graham. Do you like the pieces of choreography that you saw? If so, which ones and why? If not, why not? Martha Graham stated that “Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” What is the meaning of this quote and how do you see that reflected in her choreography?

Doris Humphrey: Still the big four

31. What principle did Doris Humphrey create?
32. Who did Humphrey dance with?
33. What school did Doris Humphrey create?

Charles Wiedman: Still the big four

34. What was Charles Wiedman known for?

35. Who did Wiedman dance with? What school did Wiedman co-create?

Hanya Holm: Still the big four

36. Where did Hanya Holm train?

37. Where did Hanya focus her modern dance training?

38. What school did she create in 1931? What techniques were introduced?

The Second Generation of Modern Dance

39. What happened during this time period to create “The Second Generation” of modern dancers?

40. What did this second generation create?

Jose Limon

41. Where did Jose Limon study dance? What techniques did her practice?

42. What company did Limon create?

Erick Hawkins

43. What is Hawkins technique?

44. Who did Hawkins study under?

Paul Taylor

45. Watch the video of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. What do you see that is different about his style of modern dance?

Postmodernism

46. What did the postmodernists do?
47. What did the postmodernists claim?
48. What was brought back from the early 1900s.

Merce Cunningham

49. What did Cunningham technique focus on?
50. What did John Cage work with Merce Cunningham on? What did Cunningham about music and dance in his technique?
51. In Cunningham technique, who was to determine the meaning of the choreography?
52. Whose company did Cunningham perform with?
53. According to Cunningham, how do the dancers influence choreography?

Contemporary Dance & Internationalism

54. What is contemporary dance?

55. What is Internationalism?

Alvin Ailey

56. What was Alvin Ailey inspired by?

57. What elements of dance did Alvin Ailey fuse together?

58. What did the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre do for African American and Asian dancers?

59. What is Alvin Ailey's most acclaimed and known work?

Alvin Ailey Video Clips:

The first video is a video clip on the CBS news covering the 50th anniversary of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. It can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veRjhWO84d0>.

60. Who was Alvin Ailey and what did he contribute to dance?
61. Why did he form the Alvin Ailey Dance Company?
62. Who is Judith Jameson? How has she been associated with the Alvin Ailey Dance Company?
63. What piece of choreography is the most prominent for Alvin Ailey?
64. Why is Alvin Ailey so well known and respected in the modern dance world?

The second video is video clip covering Renee Robinson, principal dancer for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company.

65. Describe Renee Robinson's career with the Alvin Ailey Dance Company.
66. What has Renee Robinson contributed to the company?

67. What do you find most interesting about her career? What did she say about her first audition for the Ailey company?

Video Clip 3: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater- Renee Robinson and Desmond Richardson in Episodes

This is a video clip showcasing Renee Robinson and Desmond Richardson dancing in Episodes.

68. What aspects of modern dance do you notice in the choreography?

69. What examples of weight sharing do you see in the choreography? How does this enhance the choreography?

70. How does Alvin Ailey vary the dynamics of the choreography? (Remember Laban's effort actions...sudden/sustained...direct/indirect...heavy/light)

71. How does the variety in dynamics add interest to the choreography?

72. What kind of dance training do you think these two dancers have had?

73. Is there a theme or message that you see in the choreography?

74. What do you like/dislike about this piece of choreography?

Video Clip 4: Alvin Ailey – Revelations: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWJzSP7irwM>

This is a video clip showing small sections of Alvin Ailey’s choreographic piece Revelations.

Take a minute to Google “Alvin Ailey; Revelations.” Tell me what the “ballet” is about? What was Ailey’s purpose in choreographing the piece? How is it divided into sections?

Twyla Tharp

75. What is Twyla Tharp’s claim to fame?

Mark Morris

76. What is Mark Morris known for in modern dance?

So You Think You Can Dance Clips

These two clips are the vision of modern choreography that is now being shaped by current choreographers. From the clips you have seen throughout the entire powerpoint, how is modern and contemporary evolving?