

A HISTORY OF BALLET (Spring 2022)

Week 1

Renaissance

**Origin of Ballet: The age of court spectacle,
15-17th century**

Timeline Events relating to Renaissance and the origin of Ballet

753 BC - Building of Rome begins

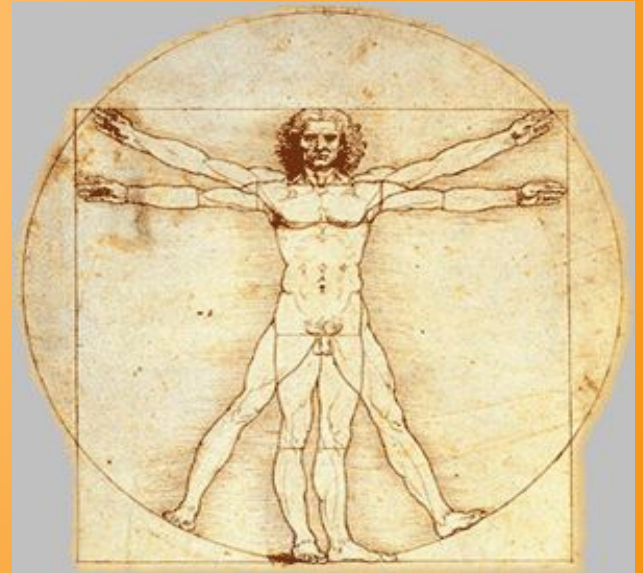
476 AD - The end of the Western Roman Empire and the fall of Ancient Rome.

476 AD - 1300 - Middle Ages

1300-1600 - The Renaissance “rebirth”

<https://www.history.com/topics/renaissance/renaissance>

Humanism: Man is the center of his own universe.



1305 - Giotto, Scrovegni Chapel in Padua.



1419 - Brunelleschi - The dome of the Florence Cathedral.



1434 - The Medici family, the head of the city-state of Florence.

1450 - Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press.

1450 - Domenico da Piacenza publishes *De arte saltandi et choreas ducendi* (“On the Art of Dancing and Directing Choruses”)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCQ7VjkwRbA&list=PLewITCq_62FC6tkIbirkGacavjrpYkItV&index=12

(Bande Annonce. *Domenico da Piacenza* par la compagnie RenaiDanse) 2’



balletto, diminutive of *ballo*

Ballet Definition: classic academic, five positions of the feet, French vocabulary, since the 17th century, originally from court dances and spectacles of the 15th and 16th century.

1400s *Spectaculi* -

Grandiose variety shows

1500s

***Ballet-comique* -** Unifying dramatic themes

***Ballet-mascarade* -**

Segments of pantomimes with costumes

***Ballet à entrée* -**

Interdependent parts

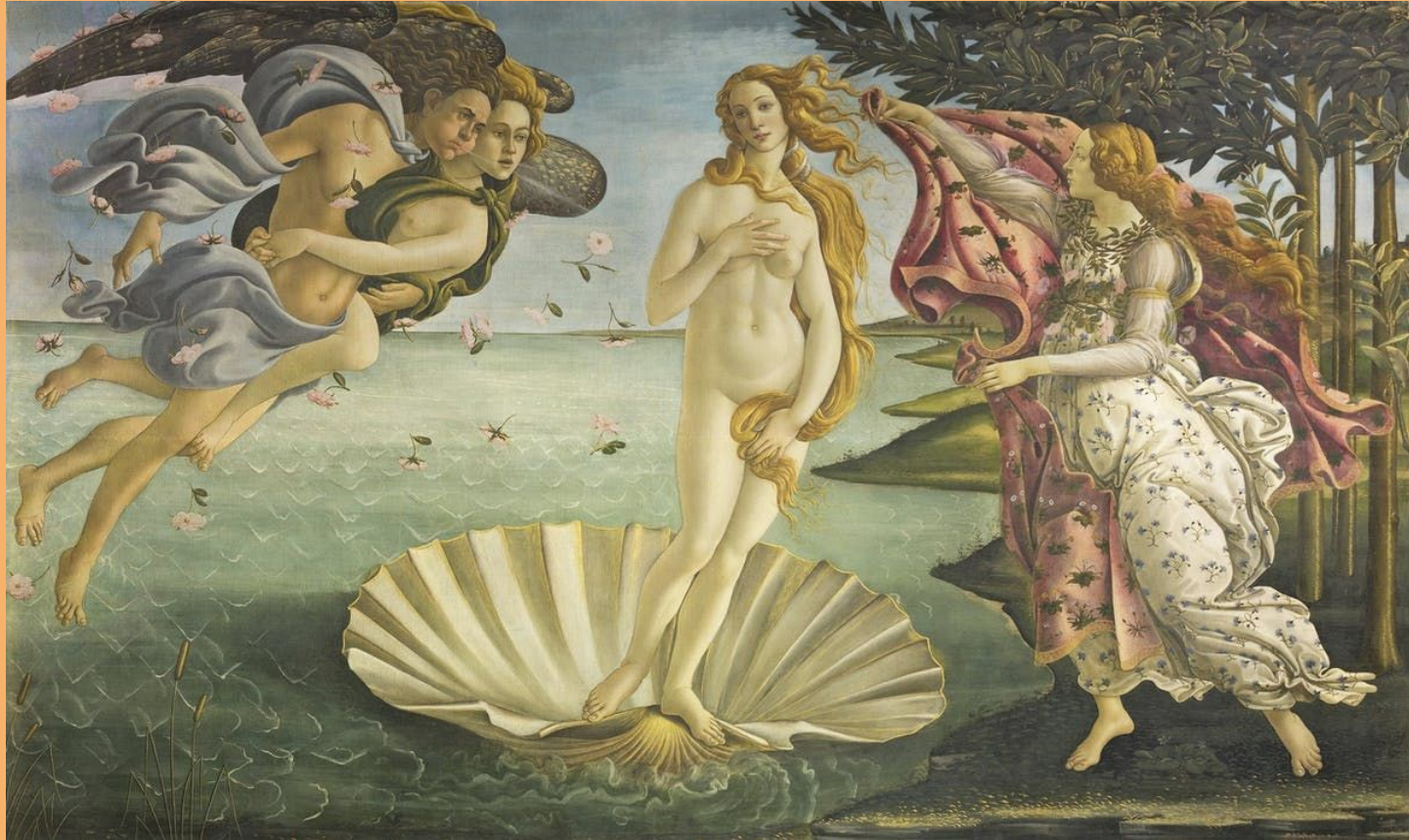
1600s

***Ballet-melodramatique* -**

Becoming opera.



1486 - Botticelli completes the painting The Birth of Venus.



1489 - Bergonzio di Botta creates The first "ballet"



Chourt dance, 15th century. From a drawing by Martin Zasinger.

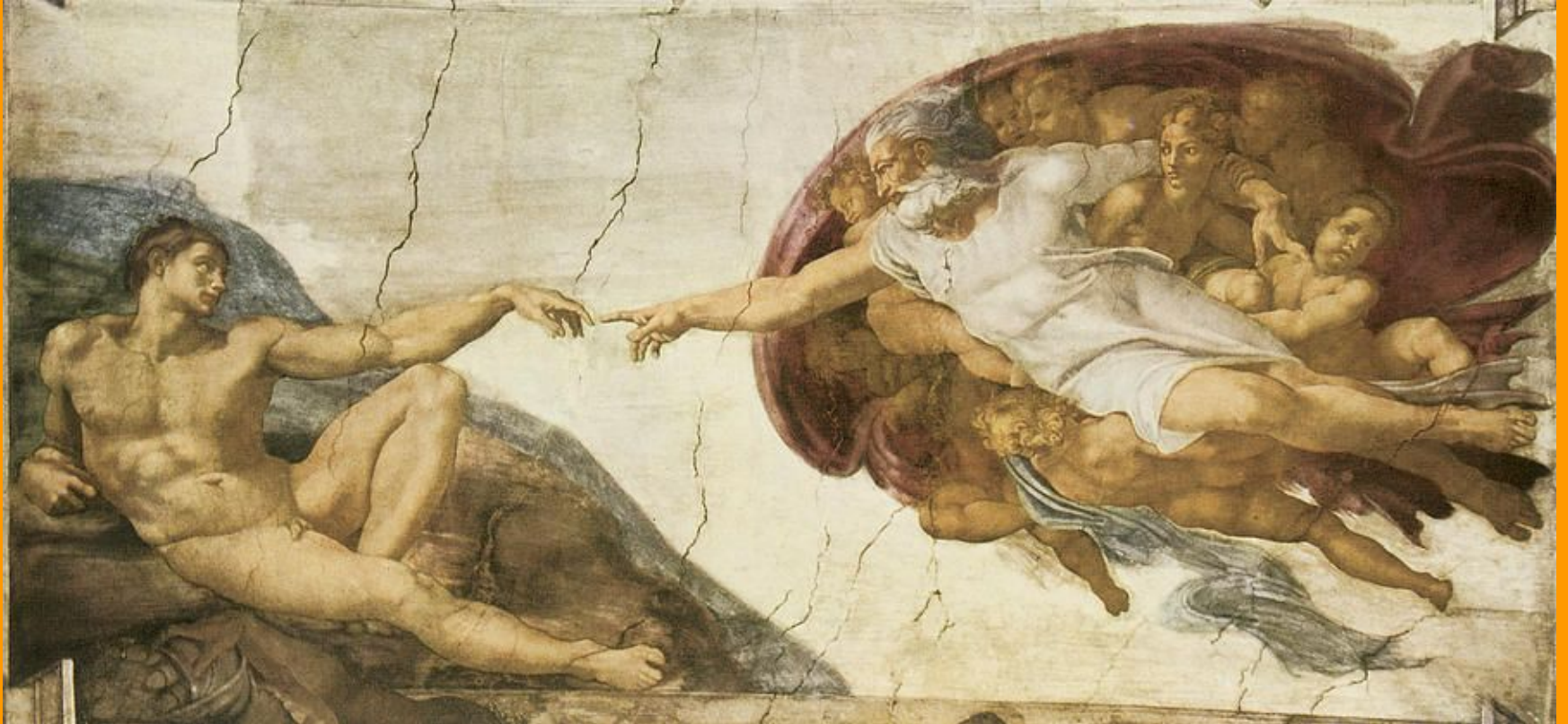
1492 - Christopher Columbus reaches the Americas.

1495 - Leonardo da Vinci paints the Last Supper.



1498 - Vasco da Gama arrives in India.

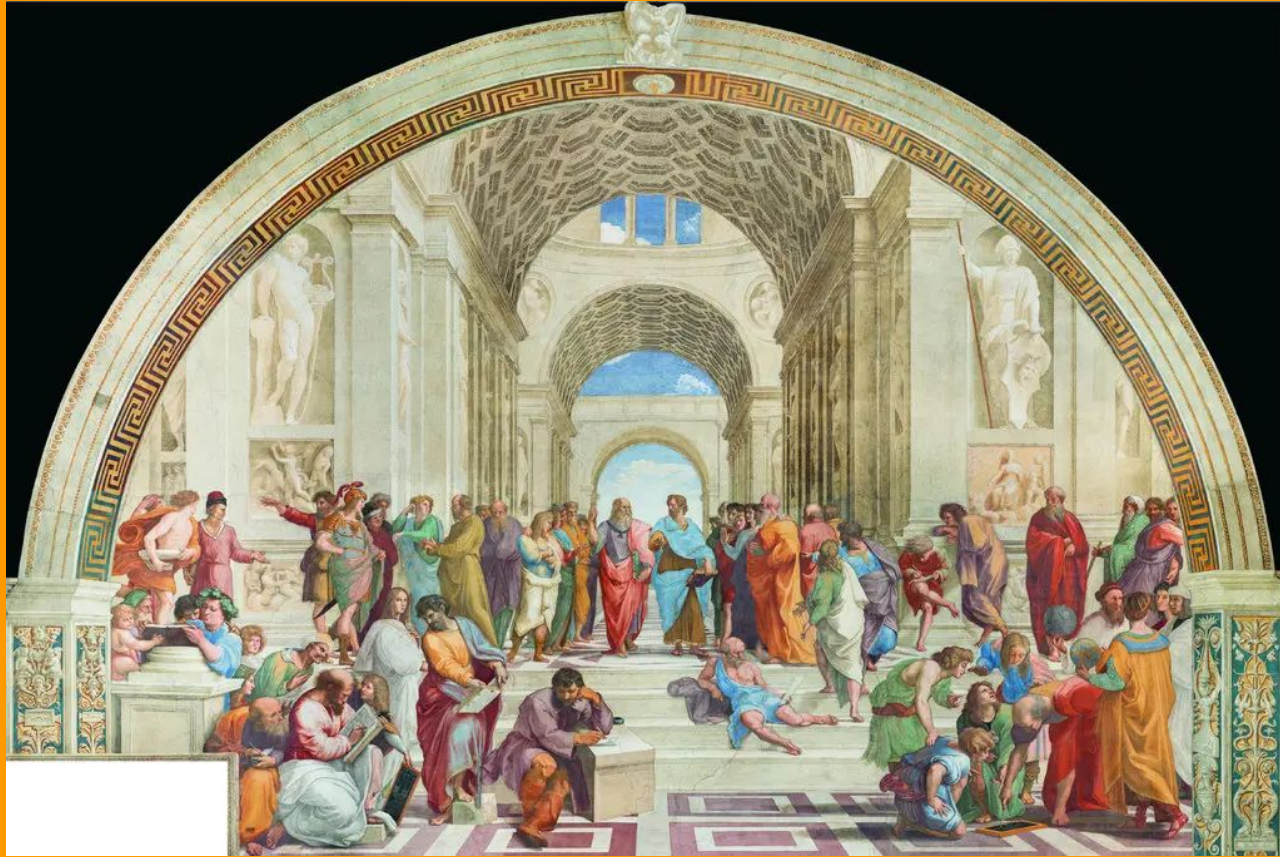
1508 - Michelangelo begins his painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.





1509 - Humanist author Erasmus writes In Praise of Folly.

1511- Raphael paints his masterpiece The School of Athens.



1516 - Sir Thomas More publishes his work Utopia.

**1517 - Martin Luther posts his 95 theses on the door of the Church of Wittenberg.
This signals the start of the Reformation.**

1519 - Ferdinand Magellan begins his voyage around the world.

**1527 - Rome is sacked by the troops of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.
The end of the Renaissance**

1527-1600 Mannerism

Reaction to the classicism and naturalism.
Obsession with style and technique.

1564 - Birth of Galileo.

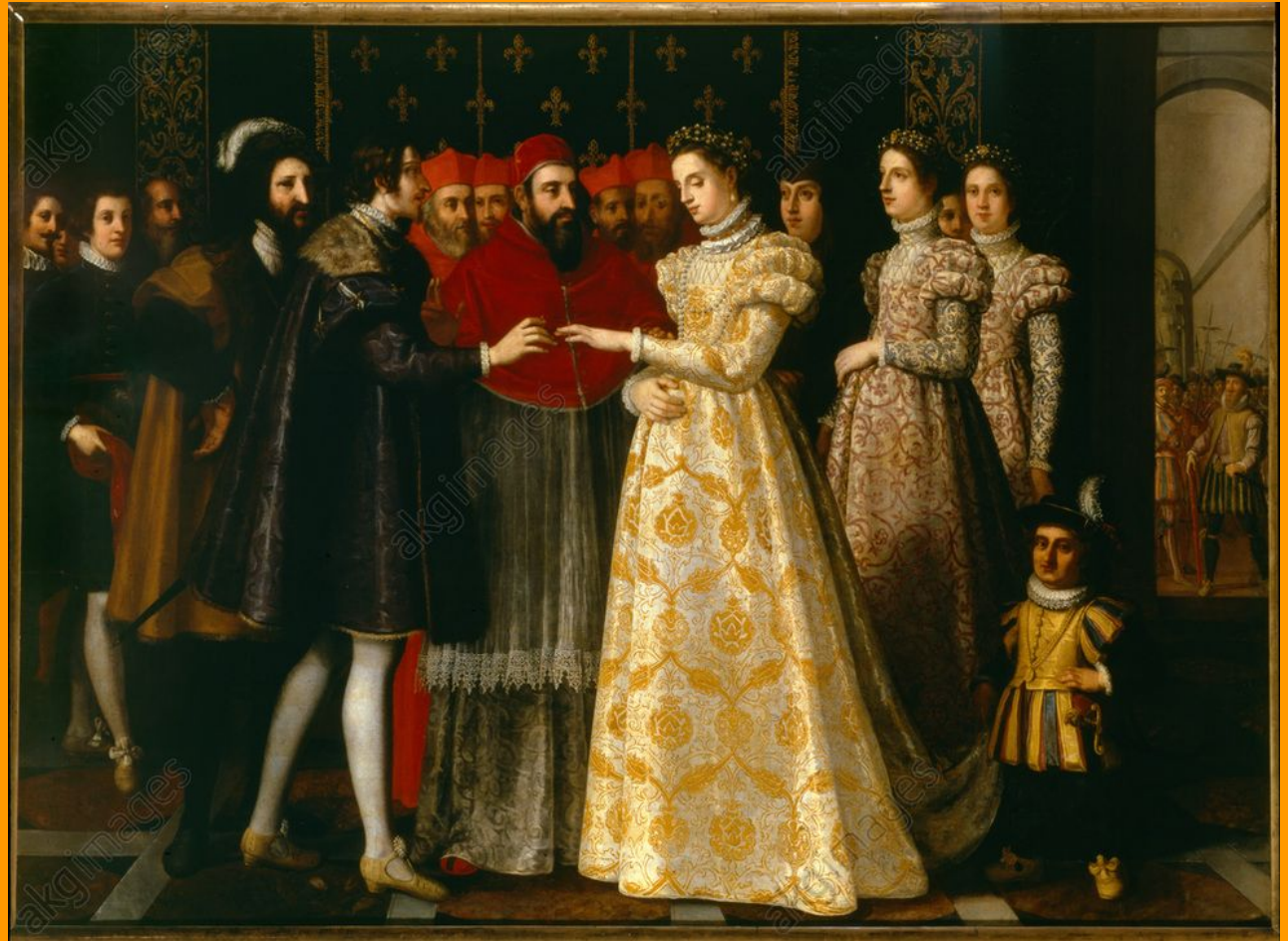
Birth of Shakespeare.

1570 - First modern atlas is published.



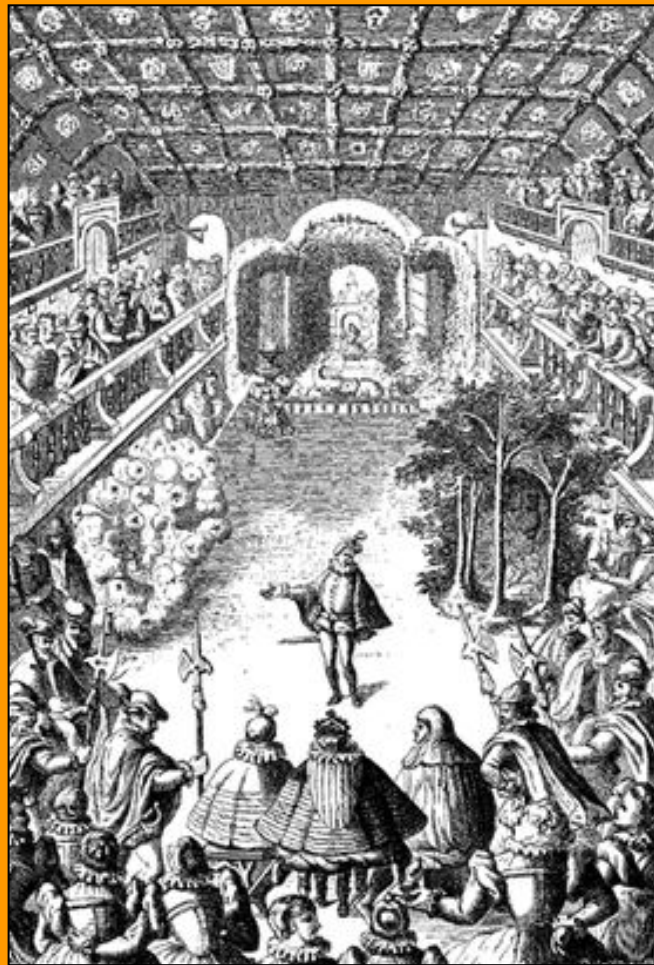
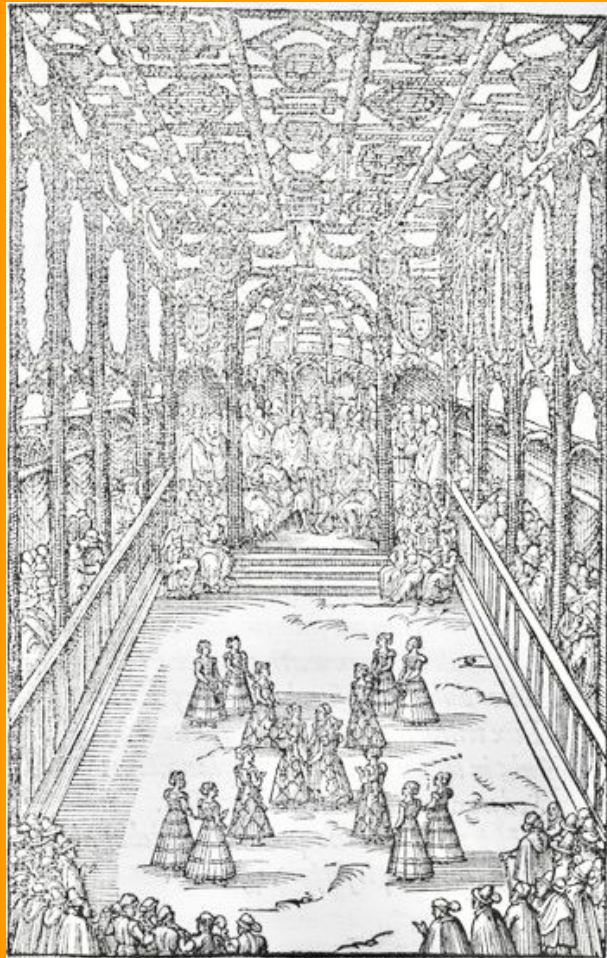
Catherine de Medici
(1519-1589)

1533 Florentine
heiress who married
the French royal
Henri Duc d'Orleans,
and controlled France.



1573 - Balthasar de Beaujoyeux creates
Le Ballet des Polonais.

He establishes the
unified dance
spectacle we would
today call ballet



1581 - Balthasar de
Beaujoyeux creates
Balet Comique de la Reine

The Valois Tapestry,
showing the wedding of
Marguerite de Lorraine
to the Duc de Joyeuse -
The occasion for the Balet
Comique de la Reine.



**Another scene from the
wedding of Marguerite de
Lorraine to the Duc de
Joyeuse**

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=_xGQTDwHv8o
&list=PLIoGiAbnAdEMK
y7lrnWqWGvwMfCpf5G
Ak&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xGQTDwHv8o&list=PLIoGiAbnAdEMKy7lrnWqWGvwMfCpf5GAk&index=2)

**Catherine de Medici and
the first ballets, 5:07**



1581 Fabritio Caroso writes *Il Ballarino*

A manual of technical information on dance steps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45PB1B-nrH4>

How to Dance Through Time: The Majesty of
Renaissance Dance | Dancetime, 2.47'

Example dances of the era from 16th century



1588 - The Spanish Armada is defeated by the English navy.

1588 - Thoinot Arbeau writes *Orchesographie* (choreography). Sets the foundations later used by Pierre Beauchamps to codify the five positions.



1599 - William Shakespeare built the Globe theatre. He writes many great plays, including Hamlet and Macbeth.

1610 - Galileo discovers the Earth revolves around the Sun.

1618 - The Thirty Years War begins largely within the Holy Roman Empire



TODAY'S VOCABULARY

Alignment It refers to keeping the head, shoulders, and hips vertically aligned.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQl78gCPHxs&list=PL7E40E6E2DAB561B5&index=2> Insight: Ballet Glossary - Alignments, 0:48

Arm positions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5HwZJQ8NuA&index=3&list=PL7E40E6E2DAB561B5> Insight: Ballet glossary - arm positions 40”

Feet positions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fSa3ESmA1s>
Insight: Ballet glossary – feet positions 34”

Plie (*plee-yay*) To bend – A smooth and continuous bending of the knees outward with the upper body held upright.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TafEj7QtGVM&list=PLfAcckkbjUBolbQHEjfEwH4-zaDv6Sljs&index=16> BF: Ballet Glossary Plie', 1:51

Port de bras (*pohr duh brah*) Carriage of the arms. Movements involved with arms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO9NzmdC8nU> 0.36'

Tendue (*tahn-dew*) *Stretched*. Gradually extend the working leg to the front, side, or back, passing from flat to demi-pointed to point where only the toes are touching the floor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXytNZxmiCI> 1.11'

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!