# Week 7: A HISTORY OF BALLET (Spring 2022)

# **Contemporary ballet from 1980's to present**



#### **World Events Timeline 1980 - Present**

1980 - Neo-Expressionism in Art.

1989 The Berlin Wall Falls. China Tiananmen Square Crackdown.

1990: The World Wide Web is created by Tim Berners-Lee.

1992: Cold War Ends

1994: Amazon.com Born

1998: The Age of Google Begins

2001: 9/11

2004: Facebook Starts

2009: America's First African American President 2020: COVID-19 **Contemporary Ballet:** A genre of dance that incorporates elements of both classical ballet and modern dance, even current "vernacular" styles such as hip-hop, Latin, folk and jazz

Pioneer Choreographers: Serge Diaghilev, George Balanchine

And: Mikhail Baryshnikov, Twyla Tharp, Robert Joffrey, Gerald Arpino, Jorma Elo, William Forsythe, Jiri Kylian, Dwight Rhoden, Alonzo King, Mark Morris, Trey McIntyre and more.



**Modern Dance:** Theatrical dance that began in the late 19th century. It evolved as a protest against both the balletic and the interpretive dance traditions. It encourages dancers to use their emotions to design their dances, instead of following a structured code of technique as in the ballet.

### Characteristics of a Contemporary Dance

- 1. The use of contraction, release, recovery, and fall.
- 2. Working with weight in terms of rebound, fall, suspension and recovery.
- 3. Release through muscles, joints and breath to create ease of movement and mind.
- 4. Improvisation through a variety of creative explorations.
- 5. Contact Improvisation by fluid movement, weight exchange, and touch.

History of Modern Dance 2008 4:15

**Twyla Tharp** (1941 - ): An American dancer, choreographer, and artistic director, founded **Twyla Tharp Dance**. Her work merged elements of popular performing arts—such as jazz, contemporary pop music, and classical music—into dance as an art form that greatly displays human emotion.

*Push Comes To Shove* by Twyla Tharp 1976. Baryshnikov in America. Part1 14:42

*In The Upper Room* by Twyla Tharp 1986. Kansas City Ballet 3:05



**William Forsythe** (1949 - ): A contemporary ballet dancer and choreographer from the United States. His work is known for being freestyle, which lets ballet dancers have room for experimentation.

In the Middle, somewhat Elevated 1987- Sylvie & Laurent Pas de Deux 3:09

NOWHERE AND EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME 2013 1:43 An elaborate installation piece at Tate Modern



Alonzo King (1952 - ): An American ballet dancer, choreographer, and the founder and artistic director of the Alonzo King LINES Ballet based in San Francisco. He describes his work as thought structures that are created by dancers through the manipulation of energies.

<u>A choreographer's Brief But Spectacular take on</u> <u>life and movement</u> 2021 3:17

THE PERSONAL ELEMENT 2019 2:58 Alonzo King LINES Ballet



Mark Morris (1956 - ) An American dancer, choreographer and director of Mark Morris Dance Group, whose work is acclaimed for its craftsmanship, ingenuity, humor, and at times eclectic musical accompaniments.



<u>Celebrating 40 Years of the Mark</u> <u>Morris Dance Group Mini</u> <u>Documentary 6:09</u> **Dwight Rhoden** (1962 - ): Rhoden is a US-born choreographer and the co-founder and artistic director of **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**, based in New York City. He



incorporates multiple dance styles into his work, including classical ballet, along with modern and contemporary dance.

Moon Over Jupiter 2010 5:59 Choreographer Dwight Rhoden (Work Sample) Complexions ballet

Unbound Choreographer Interviews: Dwight Rhoden 2018 3:20

## Ballet Hispánico was founded by Tina Ramirez in 1970



Ballet Hispánico 2017 4:29 Meet the Dance Company

#### TODAY'S VOCABULARY

**Fouettés** (fweh-TAY) Whipped. A term applied to a whipping movement. 1:08

**The Fred Step**, from Frederick Ashton. It's a short series of steps. Basically the Fred Step contains the following steps: piqué arabesque, coupé, dévelopé à la seconde (low), pas de bourrée, précipitée. 0:51

<u>**Glissade</u>** (glee-SAD) Glide. A traveling step executed by gliding the working foot from the fifth position in the required direction, the other foot closing to it. 0:59</u>

<u>**Grand Allegro**</u>, refers to large expansive jumps. These are usually done at the end of a class and typically involves steps like grand jetés (as demonstrated), large sissonnes, assemblés and cabrioles. 0:43

**Grand Battement** (grahn bat-MAHN) Large beating. An exercise in which the working leg is raised from the hip into the air and brought down again, the accent being on the downward movement, both knees straight. 0.33

<u>**Pas de bourrée**</u> (pah duh boo-RAY) A sideway quick traveling step in which one foot crosses behind or in front of the other. 1:50

THE END