



Hurtwood Dance

Welcome to A Level Dance

Here your journey begins . . .

We explore a variety of topics and dances in A Level Dance

'Rooster' By Christopher Bruce	Other Works by Christopher Bruce like 'Swansong'	Rambert Dance Company	'Singin In the Rain' By Gene Kelly	American Jazz between 1940-1975	Works by Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse

The suggestions below relate in some way to the topics above. They are designed to expand your knowledge of different genres of dance and learn about professional dance practitioners who have been pioneers within dance history.

Some introductory watching:

1. The dance 'Rooster' was choreographed by Christopher Bruce in the 1990's and yet is still popular with audiences today. The episodes are danced to a number of Rolling Stones songs and the movement reflects a range of dance styles including the 1960's social dances such as the Jive and Lindy Hop. Click on the link below and watch the opening the dance. Notice how the dancers adopt some of the animalistic traits such as a rooster which is described in the lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bTW8tPL6qY>

Thoughts:

Write down what you enjoyed and what you did not like about the sequence!

2. Christopher Bruce has created many dances for Rambert Dance Company over the years. Another famous dance is called 'Swansong'. There only three characters in the whole dance. Two of the dancers are prison guards and the soloist is a prisoner. The dance explores the humiliation and torment that the victim experiences through tap, ballet, contemporary and jazz. The dancers manipulate a chair to emphasise the themes and highlight the relationships between them. Watch the two clips below. The first one is the opening of the dance and the second is the first solo performed by the prisoner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=038BdfaaVVs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZM2wgg6u3o>

Thoughts:

Review both dances, commenting on the use of the stage, typical movements they perform and the music. Which part of the choreography stood out to you?

3. Rambert Dance Company is the longest standing ballet company in the UK. It became a modern company at a later stage and has always been innovative, experimental, and highly skilled. They tour all over the world and in the UK every year and they have their own dance school. Go onto their website and find out about the work that they are currently performing and the type of training and classes they offer.

<https://www.rambert.org.uk/>

Read up on the history of Rambert by clicking on the below link. Marie Rambert began the company in 1926 and trained many successful choreographers.

<https://www.rambert.org.uk/explore/rambert-archive/>

4. You will get to enjoy watching and discussing the film 'Singin in the Rain' as part of A Level Dance. It is an American Musical made in the 1950's. It would be worthwhile one afternoon watching the film or at least looking at the some of the dance clips from it. The classic sequence is when Gene Kelly dances in the rain after kissing his girlfriend goodnight.

Thoughts:

Watch the sequence and note how Gene Kelly uses his umbrella in creative ways. What is the song about?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1ZYhVpdXbQ>

5. American Jazz dance is one of the key topics you will learn about. There are many fascinating choreographers and dancers who contributed to the development of Jazz dance within American musicals over the last century. Some of the key practitioners are Agnes de Mille, Jack Cole and Matt Mattox. Have a watch of the following clips from a famous musical called Oklahoma which Agnes de Mille was the choreographer for. You may recognise some of the songs. Design your own colourful spider diagram noting all of the scenes in the clips and briefly describe what is happening in the scene. Describe either costume, set design or movement.

Oklahoma!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbrnXl2gO_k

The Famer and the Cowman Dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljVQqGlj4A8>

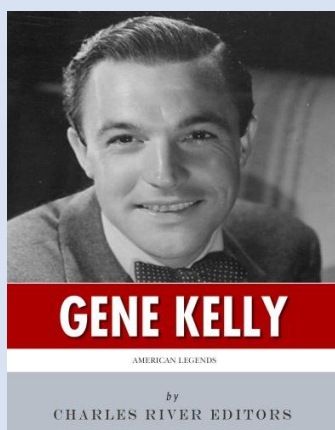
The Dream Ballet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D1loAVwiMc>

6. You may know Bob Fosse and Jerome Robbins. They are two pioneering Jazz/Ballet choreographers of the last century. They choreographed for key films like **West Side Story**, **Sweet Charity** and **Chicago**. Choose one of these films/musicals to research and find out what the plot is about. Create your own PowerPoint and add clips from the film you have chosen to explore.
7. Watch the following documentary called **Fosse**. The film shows a wide range of excerpts from Fosse's choreography and there are interviews with some of his dancers from the past. You get a real insight into his movement style and the type of subject matter he explored in the films he was involved in and dances he created.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSKPYVPCrKI&t=849s>

8. Some suggested reading:



Purchase off Amazon.

9. Read the following summary of American Jazz Dance:

<https://www.britannica.com/art/jazz-dance>

CHALLENGES!

While you have time, really start working to develop your dance technique and physical strength/flexibility!

As part of your weekly routine, watch and copy the exercises in the following training sessions:

Classical Ballet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yS5unBP96uY>

Challenge yourself by repeating the sequence every day!

Jazz:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGCRY14jvwA>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKQ9tbfcWMk>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEJu4F88x5c>

Contemporary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty8SUFiar5M>

Pilates:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWZl_wlZxOI

We hope you enjoy working out and learning the exercises. You might want to alternate each day by doing a different dance style!

Keep in touch with me – ask anything, show me whatever you have worked on, and keep busy!
I will be delighted to help, provide feedback, and offer more tasks.



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