

## **Terms and Definitions**

Accessory: An additional item of costume, for example gloves.

Actions: What a dancer does eg travelling, turning, elevation, gesture, stillness, use of body parts, floor-work and the transference of weight.

Acceleration: Speeding up the movement.

Accompaniment: The sound that you hear during a dance, for example: percussion.

Accumulation: When a dancer performs a series of movements and others join in at different times until all perform in unison.

Air pattern: A design that is traced in the air by part of the body.

Alignment: Correct placement of body parts in relation to each other.

Appreciation: Recognition and understanding of the qualities of dance.

Artistic intention: The aim of a dance; what the choreographer aims to communicate.

Artistry: Creative skill.

Auditory: Relating to sound.

Aural setting: An audible accompaniment to the dance such as music, words, song and natural sound (or silence).

Balance: A steady or held position achieved by an even distribution of weight.

Binary: A composition in two parts or sections.

Canon: When the same movements overlap in time.

Choreographic approach: The way in which a choreographer makes the dance.

Choreographic devices: Methods used to develop and vary material.

Choreographic intention: The aim of the dance; what the choreographer aims to communicate.

Choreographic processes: Activities involved in creating dance such as improvisation, selection and development.

Choreography: The art of creating dance.

Climax: The most significant moment of the dance.

Complementary: Perform actions or shapes that are similar to but not exactly the same as another dancer's.

Constituent features: Characteristics of choreography such as style, stimulus, subject matter, number/gender of dancers, action content, choreographic principles, form and structure, physical and aural settings.

Contrast: Movements or shapes that have nothing in common.

Control: The ability to start and stop movement, change direction and hold a shape efficiently.

Coordination: The efficient combination of body parts.

Costume: Clothing worn by dancers in performance.

Counterpoint: When dancers perform different phrases simultaneously.

Critical appreciation: Evaluation of dance based upon knowledge and understanding, including original insights.

Dance film: Where dance and film are both integral to a work; this includes documentary, animation, dance for camera and a screen adaptation of a stage work.

Dance for camera: Where the choreographer collaborates with (or is) the filmmaker; where the intention is to produce a dance work in a multi-media form that cannot be achieved in live performance.

Dancewear: What the dancer wears for class and rehearsal.

Deceleration: Slowing down the movement.

Development: The way in which movement material is manipulated.

Direction: The facing of a movement.

**Dynamics:** The qualities of movement based upon variations in speed, strength and flow.

**Elements of dance:** Actions, space, dynamics and relationships.

**Elevation:** The action of “going up” without support, such as in a jump.

**End-stage:** A performance space with the audience on one side; also known as “end-on”.

**Episodic:** A choreography with several sections, linked by a theme.

**Execution:** Carrying out actions with the required intention.

**Expressive skills:** Aspects that contribute to performance artistry and that engage the audience, such as focus and musicality.

**Extension:** Lengthening one or more muscles or limbs.

**Facial expression:** Use of the face to show mood, feeling or character.

**Features of production:** Lighting, set, properties, costume and aural setting.

**Flexibility:** The range of movement in the joints (involving muscles, tendons and ligaments).

**Focus (use of):** Use of the eyes to enhance performance or interpretative qualities.

**Form:** The overall shape and structure of a dance.

**Formations:** Shapes or patterns created in space by dancers.

**Fragmentation:** Use of parts of a phrase or motif.

**Highlights:** Important moments of a dance.

**Ideational:** Relating to ideas or concepts.

**Improvisation:** Exploration or generation of movements without planning.

**In-the-round:** A performing area with the audience seated on all sides.

**Intention:** Aim or desired outcome.

Interpretation: Finding the meaning that is in the movement or finding the movement that is in the idea.

Isolation: An independent movement of part of the body.

Kinaesthetic: Sensory perception (or awareness) of movement and position.

Levels: Distance from the ground: low, medium or high.

Lighting: The illumination of the performance area.

Logical sequence: The flow of phrases or sections of a dance.

Manipulation of number: How the number of dancers in a group is used.

Mental rehearsal: Thinking through or visualising the dance.

Mental skills: These include commitment, concentration, confidence, movement memory, systematic repetition, mental rehearsal, rehearsal discipline, planning of rehearsal, response to feedback and capacity to improve.

Mobility: The range of movement in a joint; the ability to move fluently from action to action.

Motif: A movement phrase encapsulating an idea that is repeated and developed throughout the dance.

Motif development: Ways in which a movement phrase can be varied.

Movement material: The matter of dance: actions, space, dynamics and relationships.

Musicality: The ability to make the unique qualities of the accompaniment evident

Narrative: Dance that tells a story.

Pathways: Designs traced in space (on the floor or in the air).

Performance: The presentation of dance to an audience.

Performance (personal): Acquisition and development of physical and expressive skills.

Performance environments: Different settings for dance such as in-the-round, proscenium and site sensitive.

Phrase: A short sequence of linked movements.

Phrasing: The way in which the energy is distributed in the execution of a movement phrase.

Physical skills: Aspects enabling effective performance such as posture, alignment, balance, coordination, control, flexibility, mobility, strength, stamina, extension and isolation.

Posture: The way the body is held.

Professional work: Original choreography by an individual or company that is recognised nationally or internationally.

Projection: The energy the dancer uses to connect with and draw in the audience.

Prop/property: A portable object that is used in a dance, for example a suitcase.

Proscenium: The arch or opening that creates the effect of a picture frame and separates the stage from the auditorium.

Rehearsal discipline: Attributes and skills required for refining performance such as commitment, systematic repetition, teamwork, responsibility and effective use of time.

Repetition: Performing the same action or phrase again.

Relationships: The ways in which dancers interact; the connections between dancers.

Retrograde: Reversing a movement phrase.

Rhythmic content: Repeated patterns of sound or movement.

Rondo: A music or dance form with alternating and repeating sections eg verse and chorus.

Safe execution: Carrying out actions safely.

Safe working practice: Personal care, respect for others, safe execution and preparation and recovery from dancing.

Sensitivity to other dancers: Awareness of and connection to other dancers.

Site sensitive: Dances that are designed for (or relate to) non-theatre spaces.

Space: The “where” of movement such as levels, directions, pathways, shapes, designs and patterns.

Spatial awareness: Consciousness of the surrounding space and its effective use.

Staging/set: The presentation of dance in the performing space including set, furniture, props, projection and backdrop.

Stamina: Ability to maintain physical and mental energy over periods of time.

Stimulus/stimuli: Inspiration for an idea or movement.

Strength: Muscular power.

Structure: The way in which material is organised to create the whole.

Structuring device: The ways in which a dance is made, built, ordered or organised.

Style: Characteristic way of dancing.

Style fusion: The combination of features of two or more styles.

Tactile: Relating to the sense of touch.

Technical skills: These include accuracy of action, timing, dynamic, rhythmic and spatial content and the reproduction of movement in a stylistically accurate way.

Ternary: A composition in three parts.

Timing: The use of time or counts when matching movements to sound and/or other dancers.

Transitions: Links between dance phrases or sections.

Types (of music): Genres of music including orchestral, electronic, percussion, vocal and found sound.

Unison: Two or more dancers performing the same movement at the same time.

Unity: A sense of “wholeness” or harmony.

Visual: Relating to sight.