



BOYS DANCING

GLOSSARY OF DANCE TERMINOLOGY

ACCUMULATION:	A structure where new movements are added to existing movements in a successive manner, for example, A, AB, ABC, ABCD.
ACTIONS:	The six dance skills that make dance. They are:
TRAVEL:	A movement which journeys in the space - a walk, jog, run, slide, roll or crawl
JUMP:	A movement that elevates the body from the ground - a hop or leap
TURN:	A movement that rotates around an axis
STILLNESS:	A motionless movement or a held shape
FALL:	A lowering to the floor
GESTURE:	Movements which do not transfer or bear weight
CALL AND RESPONSE: (or QUESTION AND ANSWER)	A structure that is most often associated with African music and dance forms, although it is also used elsewhere. One soloist or group performs with the second soloist or group entering in response to the first.
CANON:	A choreographic form where individuals or groups perform the same movement or phrase beginning at different times
CHOREOGRAPHY:	The art of arranging movement into a finished performance
CHOREOGRAPHIC DEVICE:	A specific way of manipulating movement to develop dance choreography e.g. repetition, inversion, accumulation, question and answer
CHOREOGRAPHIC STRUCTURES:	The specific compositional forms in which movement is structured to create a dance. For example- AB, ABA, ABAB, canon, variation, retrograde, call and response, chance.
COMPLEMENTARY:	Movements which are similar but not the same
COMPOSITION:	Organising and arranging sounds, words, movement, images, into a unified whole
CONTRAST:	Movement that is opposite to the main movements in the dance
DYNAMICS:	The variety of force, accent and quality of movement
EXTENSION:	The lengthening of body part/s outwards
FLOW:	Movements which are direct through space, successive or simultaneous through the body
FOCUS:	The dancers' line of sight used to increase communication with the audience

IMPROVISATION:	Unplanned exploration in movement in response to a stimulus
INITIATION:	The point at which a movement is said to originate. This particularly refers to specific body parts - the limbs/head/torso.
INTENTION:	The purpose of a movement
INVERSION:	A choreographic device where the dancer performs the dance back to front, like rewinding a DVD.
ISOLATION:	A gesture restricted to a single joint or muscle group
KINESPHERE:	Described by Rudolf Laban as the space which can be reached by easily extended limbs. Often described as a 'personal space'.
LEVELS:	Movement around varying heights: low to the floor/ at middle level/ at a high level.
MOTIF:	The central movement theme of a dance which is repeated, developed and varied
MOTIF DEVELOPMENT:	A process of dance composition that consists of transforming a basic choreographic motif to create a larger piece of dance, through exploring chosen choreographic tasks.
NARRATIVE STRUCTURE:	A choreographic structure that tells a story
PHRASE:	A series of movements of varying lengths
PROP:	Short for 'properties'; the physical objects that may be used on stage as part of the dance
RELATIONSHIPS:	A dance element that focuses on how the body relates to itself, to others, and to the dance environment
REPETITION:	A choreographic device in which movements or motifs are repeated
SEQUENCE:	A series of movements, longer than a phrase but shorter than a whole section of a dance.
SPACE:	The area in which the dance is rehearsed and performed; where you are standing on stage and where you move on stage.
SUSPENSION:	A floating, breathy, light quality of movement
SUSTAINED:	A constant, continuous, smooth movement
TABLEAU:	A still shape created by a group of dancers
TRANSITION:	The links between movements, phrases and sections
UNISON:	People dancing at the same time doing the same movements

