

## Year 8 Dance

### Genres of dance Knowledge Organiser

#### □ Contemporary Dance

**Definition:** A style of expressive dance that combines elements from ballet, modern, jazz, and lyrical.

**Key Features:**

- Floor work
- Breathing (contraction and release)
- Oppositional movements
- Raw emotional expression
- Contact

**Famous Pioneers:**

- *Isadora Duncan* – barefoot dancing, tunics
- *Martha Graham* – contraction/release
- *Lester Horton* – inclusive, dynamic style
- *Merce Cunningham* – ballet & chance technique



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#### □ Hip Hop Dance

**Definition:** A street dance style rooted in Hip Hop culture, emerging in the 1970s Bronx.

**Key Styles:**

- Breaking (B-boying)
- Locking
- Popping
- Waacking
- Krumping
- Freestyle
- House

**Features:**

- Battles (competitive)
- Self-expression
- Rhythm-driven
- Improvisation

**Choreographers/Companies:**

- *Kate Prince* (ZooNation)
- *Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy* (Boy Blue)



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#### □ Musical Theatre Dance

**Definition:** Dance style combining acting, singing, and movement to tell a story.

**Movements:** Pirouette, Grapevine, Leap, Ball Change, Box Step

**Examples of Musicals:**

- *Hamilton* – blends hip hop, jazz, and history
- *Cats*, *West Side Story*, *Six*

**Musicality:** Performing movements in time with music, expressing its qualities

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## □ Elements of Dance

| Element                                                                                   | Description/example                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Body Actions                                                                              | turn, travel, gesture, elevation, stillness, floor work, use of different body parts, transfer of weight.                 |
| What a dancer does                                                                        |                                                                                                                           |
| Space                                                                                     | pathways, facings, directions, size, levels, spatial design and spatial pattern.                                          |
| The 'where' of movement                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Dynamics                                                                                  | Fast/Slow, Sharp/Smooth, Heavy/Light                                                                                      |
| Dynamics are the qualities of movement based upon variations in speed, strength and flow. |                                                                                                                           |
| Relationships                                                                             | lead and follow, Mirroring, action and reaction, Accumulation, Complementary, contrast, counterpoint, Contact, formations |
| the ways in which dancers interact, the connections between dancers                       |                                                                                                                           |

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