Education Support

American Dance

Beginning Choreography

by Debbie Byrd

1. Choosing Music
    a. Where to get music?
        i. Appropriate music for material
    b. What type of music!?
        i. Please audience MORE than performer
        ii. Variety of tempo and style
        iii. Any time limitations
        iv. Quality Recording
2. Charting Music
    a. Steps to actually outlining music
        i. Label and locate
    b. Listen to music for emphasis
        i. Tempo changes
        ii. Music changes
        iii. Music repeats
        iv. Chorus
3. Routine Introductions
    a. “Eye catching” formations
        i. Holding counts/half counts
        ii. Dynamics
        iii. Transitions
        iv. Contagions or Ripples
        v. Traditional Positions
4. Routine Endings
    a. Build to the End- Dynamics
    b. Create a visual lasting image
5. Basic Dance Steps
    a. Variations
    b. Transitions

Checklist for Evaluating Choreography

by Debbie Byrd

1. Are the rhythm patterns and phrasing interesting?
2. Are there variations in dynamics or is it the same all the way through the dance?
3. Is there interesting use of space and traveling patterns?
4. Is there variation in level and direction of movements?
5. Is there repetition as well as variation?
6. Are there any overused, frequently seen movements and positions?
7. Are the dance sequences logically arranged or are they impossible to remember?

Beware of Choreography Pitfalls

1. Compromises that fill space with just any movement that really does not fit the rest of the choreography.
2. Too much, or not enough contrast.
3. Using the same stereotyped space patterns.
4. Movement beyond the performers ability.
5. Dance that goes on and on, long after its point has been made.
6. Movement or design too small to be seen from where your audience may be seated.

Rating your Choreography

If you feel you have successfully fulfilled each of the following components, place one point in the blank provided. After completing all the questions, add up the total number of points. Use the scale below to help you identify the overall effectiveness of your choreography. You can also identify the areas which need improvement.

_____Is the movement creative and contains some original movements in both design and concept?
_____Are the floor patterns and formations creative and clear in design and concept?
_____Is the total use of space well-balanced and interestingly developed?
_____Is there a logical arrangement of the structure (steps) of the dance?
_____Is there an appropriate relationship between the structural and rhythmic forms of the dance?
_____Is there unity and continuity within the group as well as within the movement?
_____Is there thematic movement and, or a motif apparent and well developed?
_____Is the accompaniment (music) appropriate for the dance?
_____Was there adequate preparation apparent in the total development of the choreography and performance?
_____Was total interest of the choreography maintained throughout the dance?

_____TOTAL POINTS

10 pts. = A	**5 pts. = C-**
9 pts. = A-	**4 pts. = D**
8 pts. = B	**3 pts. = D-**
7 pts. = B-	**2 pts. = F**
6 pts. = C	**1 pts. = F**