Education Support

American Dance

Checklist for Evaluating Choreography

by Debbie Byrd

When creating the choreography of a routine, here are some important questions to ask...

1. Are the rhythm patterns and phrasing interesting?
2. Are there variations in dynamics or is it the same all the way through the entire dance?
3. Is there an 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?
8. Is the music appropriate for the movements and dynamics of the choreography?

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 sitting
7. Transitions with no choreography