Contemporary and Stylized Dance Forms in Theater

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **20 weeks ongoing over the course**
Status: **Published**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF UNIT

In this unit, students will analyze and discuss the role of contemporary and stylized dance forms and choreographers as th
less codified but play a role in theater history and in the process of auditioning and performing for the stage. Styles will in
world.

Revised: July 2026

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are some of the more contemporary, less codified movement forms used in musical theater dance or on stage.
- What are the various influences on movement stylization in theater?
- What impact do stylized movement techniques have on theater?

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- Movement that is more stylized and less codified has an important role in theater.
- These styles incorporate rhythm, tempo, isolations, and specific nuances that demand their own type of training
- Contemporary movement vocabulary challenges the performer as it can be very abstract or sometimes reflect non-humans (animals, artificial intelligence, etc)
- Movement is an ever evolving form that is constantly being infused with new ideas from various cultures and societal shifts as it is utilized for the stage.

STUDENTS WILL KNOW

- How to embody a certain movement style.
- Elements of specific stylized movements (Fosse, hip-hop, contemporary)
- How to identify and execute basic stylized movements from various genres
- Methods for picking up movement phrases quickly in an audition.
- The role of stylized dance forms in musical theater
- The various choreographers, ideas and traditions that influence the musical theater world today

STUDENTS WILL BE SKILLED AT

- Identifying and executing basic movement patterns in contemporary and stylized dance techniques.
- Analyzing what various styles may be needed for auditions, rehearsals and performances, and working on achieving those skills.
- Recognizing the importance and influence of contemporary and stylized dance techniques in musical theater.

STANDARDS

Amistad Commission

This unit also reflects the goals of the Department of Education and the Amistad Commission including the infusion of the history of Africans and African-Americans into the curriculum in order to provide an accurate,

complete, and inclusive history regarding the importance of of African-Americans to the growth and development of American society in a global context.

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.1.12prof.Cr1a	Explore a variety of stimuli (e.g., music, sound, literary forms, notation, natural phenomena, experiences, current news, social events) for sourcing movement to develop an improvisational or choreographed dance study. Analyze the process and the relationship between the stimuli and the movement.
1.1.12prof.Cr1b	Analyze the elements of dance to expand personal movement vocabulary and ascertain new movement possibilities through the creation of choreographic works.
1.1.12prof.Cr2b	Choose a theme to develop a dance and create corresponding movements to communicate the theme. Develop a dance study by selecting a specific movement vocabulary to communicate a main idea. Discuss how the dance communicates non-verbally.
1.1.12prof.Cr3a	Revise a movement study based on self-reflection and feedback of others to improve the quality of a planned movement sequence. Articulate movement choices and revisions. Analyze and evaluate the impact of choices made in the revision process.
1.1.12prof.Pr4a	Develop partner and ensemble skills that enable contrasting level changes while maintaining a sense of spatial design and relationship. Use space intentionally during phrases and through transitions between phrases.
1.1.12prof.Pr4b	Use syncopation and accented movements related to different tempi. Take rhythmic cues from different aspects of accompaniment. Integrate breath with metric and kinesthetic phrasing.
1.1.12prof.Pr4c	Perform planned and improvised movement sequences and dance combinations with variations that accurately demonstrate contrasting dynamics and energy (e.g., fast/slow, sharp/smooth, strong/gentle, tight/loose).
1.1.12prof.Pr5b	Demonstrate joint articulations and basic anatomical terms (e.g., muscles, bones, tendons, ligaments) as they relate to dance. Apply kinesthetic principles and various body systems.
1.1.12prof.Pr5c	Demonstrate body coordination while moving (e.g., elongated spine, vertical alignment, release of tension from shoulders; use of vertical, off center, non-vertical alignment) the body through space.
1.1.12prof.Pr5d	Explore movement that develops a wide range of motion, muscular flexibility, strength, and endurance. Explore different body conditioning techniques (e.g., yoga, weight training, aerobics, Pilates).
1.1.12prof.Pr5e	Demonstrate style/genre specific vocabulary and codified movements with style/genre specific alignment. Demonstrate, through focused practice and repetition, breath control, body part initiation and body sequencing.
1.1.12prof.Pr6b	Rehearse a dance and apply specific feedback to refine performance accuracy, consistency, and expressiveness. Demonstrate group awareness and develop personal rehearsal strategies.
1.1.12prof.Pr6c	Adapt movements to performance area. Demonstrate performance etiquette and performance practices during class, rehearsal and performance. Accept notes from the choreographer and apply corrections to future performances. Document the rehearsal and performance process using dance and production terminology. Analyze and evaluate the

	success of a performance.
1.1.812prof.Pr6d	Demonstrate a variety of technical elements (e.g., costumes, lighting, sound, performance cues) of a dance performance. Utilize production and technical terminology to communicate with performers and backstage personnel.
1.1.12prof.Re7a	Use genre-specific terminology to analyze recurring patterns of movement and their relationships in dance in context of artistic intent.
1.1.12prof.Re7b	Analyze the use of elements of dance in a variety of genres, styles or cultural movement practices within the cultural context to communicate intent. Use genre-specific dance terminology to compare and contrast.
1.1.12prof.Re8a	Distinguish different dances and discuss their intent and artistic expression. Explain how the relationships among the elements of dance, execution of dance movements and context enhance meaning and support intent using genre specific dance techniques.
1.1.12prof.Re9a	Analyze artistic criteria to determine what makes an effective performance. Consider content, context, genre, style, and/or cultural movement practice to comprehend artistic expression. Use genre-specific dance terminology.
1.1.12prof.Cn11a	Analyze and discuss the role of dance in a global society. Examine genres, styles, historical time periods, societal changes and perspectives and how those changes impact dance in relation to the ideas and perspectives of the people from whom the dances originate.

LEARNING PLAN

- Allow students to brainstorm and analyze the current trends in theatrical staging.
- View works by established choreographers and directors within theater; analyze and discuss
- Provide a technical movement experience that outlines commonly used stylized vocabulary.
- Provide written and visual examples of the influence of culture and society on choreography for theater.
- Create opportunities for students to practice the specific styles in class and/or performance.
- Assess student understanding through written reflection and observation of student work.

EVIDENCE/PERFORMANCE TASKS

- Demonstrate basic stylized dance movements and patterns
- Recognize commonly used movements and phrases
- Reflect on the various ways in which stylized dance forms are used in choreography in theater

- Demonstrate understanding of technique using peer feedback in class practice.
- Demonstrate self-awareness by watching a video of classwork.
- Study the various choreographers and their impact on theater through stylized movement.

Materials

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oy9t_EcIdEQB5Hpcjc2Iz7brpFvX2Gx66hWRi3kln0o/edit?usp=sharing

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR MODIFICATIONS

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HvXfjaoPRlL7SbdyzXueAWOxWGFv9yGr6-nHn4iVtyM/edit?usp=sharing