



Dance History Timeline

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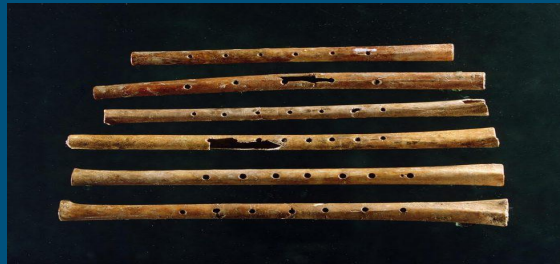
Prehistoric Times

Dance Style

- Very easy to do and did not contain a lot of complex movements; arms were a huge factor and dances were used to represent many different everyday life aspects such as hunting, survival, marriage, death, ect.
- “In harmony” and “out of harmony” dances were used to bring everyone together.

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Circle dance is the oldest formation in dance. Lines were very common as well.
- Elements such as sticks, bones and handmade sounds were present during these times.
- Dance was not always written down, but what was is still used in some elements of dance today.



Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- The Gods and Shaman were the main people and influential leaders/powers who led and inspired the dances. They were most important because they kept the community protected and safe from anything else while dancing which made them capable of becoming “one with the dance” and dancing freely and spiritually.



Middle Ages & Ancient Times

Styles/Types of Dance

- The types and styles of dance were becoming more complex and dances now focused on the mind with natural and pronounced movements.



New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- To be able to dance, the dancers needed to be able to keep up with the music, remember the steps and have a sense of space.
- Musical dance was becoming known.
- Circle dance was still being used for performing Hymns.
- Dance dramas were becoming popular.
- Court dances were being introduced.



Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- The Queen was a big factor in dancing. Much like the Shaman, she led the dances and created different dances. Elizabeth I had a huge role in creating more complex and different styles of dance.
- Dance Masters were coming into the dance world as people who taught dance; they were ranked highly in the social class.



16th & 17th Century Court Dances

Styles/Types of Dance

- Court dances were becoming well-known and popular. Elegance is a good word to describe movement of this time.
- Ballet was performed in the courts, and this was the most performed style of dance.



New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Two-part suite and Four-part suite were different setups of dance being used during this time.
- Dance was very strict and forward in the sense that ballet was being performed.
- Different dances were performed based on the audience, space and court dance was a form of entertainment that was later on performed as professional entertainment.

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Louis XIII of France composed music and performed in dance pieces.
- Pierre Beauchamps created five positions of the feet for ballet; he was responsible for ballet court dances.
- Ville La Fontaine was the first female dance professor or “the Queen of Dance”.
- Dancers began to become famous by the tricks they could do, new moves they developed. This first showcased the idea of individuality in dance.



18th Century: From Court to Theater

Styles/Types of Dance

- Minuet, Contradance and Reels & Strathspeys were types of ballroom and social dances of this time.
- Opera Ballets, Ballet Pantomime, Ballet d'Action and Paris Opera were influences of dance growth during this time
- To dance showed status and that one was well educated



New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Again dancers of this time were very elegant in their movements, and new types of dance were created by the aspect of competition being introduced.
- Theatres were being used for performances during this time which was a big outbreak of the entertainment dance.
- Common rooms were also used for performances.
- Couple dances were common as were weaving patterns, like S and Z.

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Francoise Prevost was one of the first famous female ballerinas.
- Marie Salle wore simpler dresses without corsets which would change the way dancers dressed and costumed for further dance.
- Jean Dauberval was the first person to make a 2 act ballet and focus on natural characters



19th Century: From Romantic to Classic Ballet

Styles/Types of Dance

- Dance was popular in the courts and very balletic - elegant, graceful, ethereal
- Social dances common for common folk - waltzes, polkas, quadrilles

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Costumes had lots of adornment/details
- Idea of individuality in skills continued
- Men were credited with developing and performing ballet



Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- First time dance notations documented formally and dance manuals (books on techniques) were written

17th-19th Century: Dance in the United States

Styles/Types of Dance

- Ballet emerged from Europe to US
- Melodramas, minstrel shows and vaudeville performances grew in fame



New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Dance gaining popularity in America with influx of people, customs and traditions

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Being a dance master (teacher) was a recognized profession for the first time

Imported Influences: 1900-1920's

Styles/Types of Dance

- Modern dance evolved out of rebellion of dancers resisting confines of ballet - barefoot, no “costume”, more pedestrian, feelings and non-verbal expression of events came about through movement
- Sensual and close coupled movements developed with social dance embracing more ragtime, foxtrot, tango, vintage jazz
- Ballet took a more humanistic approach



New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Politics and economy were explosive in the US, dance reacted to the times/events...new fashion, new decor, sense of independence, voice, confidence
- European etiquette “boring” and dancers began pushing the boundaries in costume and dress

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Nijinsky, Pavlova, Diaghlev, Fokine
- Fuller, Duncan, Denishawn
- College Dance Programs began! - University of Wisconsin, Margaret D'Houbler (1926) and Delsarte Method utilized for dance education

Emerging
American Dance:
1930-1940's

Styles/Types of Dance

- Ballet kept classic technique but took a more contemporary performance approach
- Modern dance - technique formed but individuals still created their own philosophies of movements/dance

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Dance and dancers sought identity and authenticity in style - dance musicals, lindy hop, latin dance

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- The Bennington School of Dance (now known as Bennington College, Dance Program) began in 1934 by Martha Hill. She started a summer dance program that taught modern dance by the “Big Four” - Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, and Charles Weidman.

Maturing Classics: 1940's-1950's

Styles/Types of Dance

- Ballet and Modern dance created and embedded many different styles of dance into choreography and productions such as Jitterbug, Swing; Jive/Lindy, the mambo and the cha-cha.
- Women's rights led to the advancement in rebellion related to dance styles/intents and costumes that created a unique and very different look to the choreographies

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Dance was growing in a way that everyone wanted to do better than the person before them. This brought out faster paced social dances and dances that bent the rules of dance at the time. Les Patineurs, Agon and dance episodes were popular ballet dances that bent the rules and created new standards for dance similar to dance styles that evolved into dance battles later in the mid-1900's

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Jerome Robbins, Jacques D'Amboise, Maria Tallchief, Lester Horton, Erik Hawkins and Pearl Primus were all major choreographers and dancers of the time.

Chance and Change: 1960-1970's

Styles/Types of Dance

- The styles of dances evolving in popularity were social and individual dances that people could do everywhere. Jazz, soul, rhythm and blues music led to the development of these same kinds of popular styles of dance. Latin Dance,
- Jitterbug, Lindy, or Swing, Rock-n-Roll, Boogie-Woogie, Bop
- Twist, Mashed Potato and Boogaloo were social dances that could be done by everyone. Television and radio shows made music and dancing more accessible to people in their homes and communities.

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- Dance was a way to come together and it was moved by the saying of “Make love not war”, which made it so everyone could come together and make the outside world brighter than it actually was.
- Nudity in dance was now allowed to show a statement and make the pieces stand out more, which was still a huge factor of creating dances.

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Many new dance companies were evolving such as New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Pilobolus to create dancers who were educated to the best of their dancing abilities.
- Mikhail Baryshnikov, Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor and Twyla Tharp were influencers during this time

New Directions in Dance: 1980's-2000's

Styles/Types of Dance

- Funk dance is a form of hip hop and street style dance. This dance style consists of flexing your muscles to the beat often done with a joint locking technique.
- The internet was responsible for many different surges in dance and the outside world. This created the ability to research, upload and view other people's dances from many different places.
- Disco, Street Dance, Swing Dance and The Salsa were many new popular dances that could be done by anyone.

New Forms/Elements & Description of Dance at this Time

- At Midnight , The Grand Canon, Withought Wax, Soothing the Enemy, Calcium Light Night and A Fool for You were created with a style of dance that broke boundaries and used individuality to create pieces that stood out.

Influential People or Events & Specific New Developments

- Elliot Feld, Alonzo King, Bebe Miller, Mark Morris and Bill T. Jones were all responsible for creating and contributing to the growth of the dance world at this time.
- Many choreographers opened up their own schools of dance and used their own style of dance to broaden dance. Culture was being incorporated into dance and this created a whole new style.