

Dance-Making Tools

Dance Making Tools: Choreographers use different movement tools to create dances.

- Addition/subtraction: more dancers join in or drop out.
- Unison: dancers doing the same movement at the same time.
- Repetition: doing the same movement or section of movement over and over again.
- Accumulation: building up additional movement.
- Slow motion/Fast forward: movie effects in movement, as a way of working with time and shifting the audience's focus.
- Canon: when one dancer or group initiates a movement and other dancers start the same movement at later intervals, like a round.
- Call & response: when one dancer or group moves, and another dancer or group responds in movement. Response movement can be the same or different.
- Exaggeration: making a movement, effect or emotion bigger or "overdone".
- Contrast/complement: movements that are somehow opposite or conflicting; and movements that somehow support each other.
- Variation: the same basic movement or section of movement performed in different ways, i.e. facing a different direction in space, done with a different body part, or done while traveling instead of in place.
- Motif: a very short sequence of set of movements that can be expanded into a movement phrase.
- Phrase: a sequence of movement that is related or thematic and makes a point.
- Peak/evolution/transformation: when the action of a dance progresses, or grows to a high point or big change, either suddenly or slowly.

- Transitions: a movement way of getting from one part of a dance to another, or from one major movement to another.
- Entrances and exits: when dancers come into or leave the performing space.

Dance Structures – Dances can have many structures, but they all have a clear beginning, middle and end.

- Simple: the dance begins with a clear, still, opening shape, followed by movement action, ending with a clear, still, shape.
- ABC: a dance in three sections - a clear section A where all the movement is related, followed by a clear section B that is different from section A, ending with a clear section C that is different in movement from section A and B.
- ABA: a dance in three sections - a clear section A where all the movement is related, followed by a clear section B that is different from section A, ending with a clear third section that returns to the movement of section A but often changes or transforms it somehow.