

## **Dancetrain Lesson Plan**

Dancetrain Issue: **MarApr 2022** What is Contemporary Dance? **p72,73.**

Title:	What is Contemporary Dance?	Suggested Stage/Year:	Stage 5
Dance Syllabus Area:	Appreciation & Performance	Topics:	Modern Dance, Pioneers and Contemporary Dance Styles and Technique
Prior Knowledge:	An understanding of the style of Classical Ballet and Modern Dance History.	Cross Curricular Links:	History
Dancetrain Issue & Resources:	MarApr 2022- “What Contemporary Dance” on p72,73 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPPxXeolzRY&amp;ab_channel=TED">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPPxXeolzRY&amp;ab_channel=TED</a>		
Syllabus Outcomes:	5.3.1: A student describes and analyses dance as the communication of ideas within a context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the elements of dance are employed by the composer/choreographer to communicate ideas</li><li>• identify and describe the context of a dance</li></ul>	
	5.3.3: A student applies understandings and experiences drawn from their own work and dance works of art.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• use the internet to facilitate dance-related research</li><li>• differentiate and make connections between the social, cultural or historical context of a dance and the development of style through the experience of performing, composing and viewing different styles of dance</li><li>• how the stylistic features of a dance are derived from its context</li></ul>	
Teachers notes:	Teacher will need to allocate students with a choreographer to conduct research. Suggested Choreographers: Isadora Duncan, Jose Limon, Martha Graham, Twyla Tharp, Merce Cunningham, Greame Murphy, Rafael Bonachela, Mats Ek, Alexander Ekman, Sue Healey, Alvin Ailey		

### **Content**

#### **Introduction**

Students discuss their own individual classification of "Contemporary Dance". They might share their experiences from dance studios, eisteddfods or competitions. Do they think the style had evolved in their lifetime in dance? This may be a choreographic or technique perspective.

#### **Student task**

1. Students read the article "What Contemporary Dance" on p72,73 of MarApr 2022
2. Then students view the TEDTalk Youtube video by Choreographer Wayne McGregor  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPPxXeolzRY&ab\\_channel=TED](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPPxXeolzRY&ab_channel=TED)
3. Students then discuss their thoughts on the "McGregor" Choreographic process.
4. Students then are allocated a modern dance pionerr, modern dance pioneer or a contemporary dance choreographer. They conduct research on the choreographic process their choreographer. Key research questions that could be investigated:

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- What is the choreographer interested in?
- What is their training and background?
- What are their philosophies regarding movement and choreographic intention?
- Can you find information on HOW they created their choreographic work?
- How do they develop or produce their work?

### **Conclusion**

Students share their findings with their class and compare their research to the choreographic process they read about and viewed in the TED Talk video. They may notice how involved dancers have become in the collaborative process over time.