



Summer Tasks July 2020

So, you think you would like to study: DANCE

Summer Task Title / Instructions:

Task one:

As part of your written exam in A level Dance you will study Rambert Dance Company from 1966-2002 with a focus on the piece 'Rooster' (Bruce, 1991) and American Jazz Dance 1940-1975 with a focus on 'Singin' in the Rain' (Kelly 1952). To help prepare for this research and create a presentation based on either 'Rooster' or 'Singin' in the Rain'. You need only to base your presentation on a section of dance lasting approximately 30 seconds.

Things you may wish to consider:

- Actions: what are they doing?
- Space: where? (levels/directions/pathways/movement size)
- Dynamics (how are they performing – slow, smooth, sharp)
- Relationships (unison, canon, mirroring, direct correlation, music visualisation)
- Set Design (proscenium arch stage, cycloramas, what is on stage?)
- Accompaniment (music – pitch, style, instruments, climax)
- Lighting (wash, gobo)
- Costume (what are they wearing)
- Choreographic structure and style/motifs etc.
- And why do they do all of the above?

Task two:

Create a short solo lasting one minute that showcases your strengths as a performer. The piece should be in a contemporary style. The piece does not have to have a stimulus but you may choose to have one. (As part of your exam in A Level Dance you will be assessed on a solo performance based on a specific practitioner).

Suggested Additional Reading:

I strongly suggest that you start making extensive notes on the development of Rambert Dance Company. You need to pay particular attention to names and dates. E.g. Christopher Bruce, Richard Alston, Robert North. Create mind maps/revision cards, create timelines alike on the Rambert website. Who helped to develop Rambert and how? All of this information can be found on the Rambert Dance Company website.

Rambert Dance Company websites:

- britannica.com/biography
- criticaldance.com/interviews/1999/cbruce990700.html

- rambert.org.uk
- rambert.org.uk/explore/rambert-archive/
- richardalstondance.com
- sadlerswells.com
- siobhandavies.com

American Jazz Dance websites:

- agnesdemilledances.com/biography.html
- britannia.com/biography/Stanley-Donen
- danceheritage.org/treasures/cole_essay_levine.pdf
- masterworksbroadway.com/artist/bob-fosse/
- notablebiographies.com/Jo-Ki/Kelly-Gene.html
- jeromerobbins.org

Suggested Visit:

Watching as much live dance as possible is always worthwhile and any contemporary dance works or American jazz musicals will help to widen your knowledge for this course. See if you can watch the following companies perform:

- Rambert Dance Company
- Siobhan Davies Dance
- Richard Alston Dance Company
- Singin' in the Rain – the musical
- West Side Story – the musical
- Sweet Charity – the musical

Please submit the task to your teacher on the first lesson in September. Feel free to do multiple summer tasks if you are unsure on what subjects to study.