

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Word Dance

Artist: 940 Dance Company

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Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

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Performance Description

In this performance, the 940 Dance Company leads the audience on an exploration of communication through dance and the language arts. From spelling and grammar to poetry and literature, the dancers put text into motion.

This performance enhances the power of the literary arts by tying in visual and kinesthetic elements to capture the attention and imagination of students. Combining these disciplines is an excellent way to invite students to experience the power of language and movement as a way to communicate.

This performance also includes concepts such as spelling, compound words, and suffixes. Beginning with letters, the dancers build words, including compound

words, a palindrome, action words and more! Then, the dancers use movement to show how words are used in poetry and stories. Students



have the opportunity to create a movement improvisation built on their own words!

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- See the way letters become words, words create image, and words become sentences.
- Gain insights into movement as communication and as the expression of ideas, moods, emotions, and images.

Language Arts:

- Understands the ways in which language is used in literary texts

Dance

- Understands dance as a way to create and communicate meaning

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Preferred 25' x 30' wood floor; floor swept, mopped, and allowed to dry at least one hour before performance; nearby dressing room and/or bathroom; electrical outlet.

Artist Bio: 940 Dance Company

Founded in 1987 by Candi Baker as Prairie Wind Dancers, 940 Dance Company is the resident professional modern dance company at the Lawrence Arts Center in Lawrence, Kansas.

The company has received national recognition for its First Step Dance project, working with women recovering from addiction and their children.

Now under the direction

of Susan Warden, the company is on the Kansas Arts Commission and Missouri Arts Council touring rosters.

Susan holds an MFA in dance from the University of North Carolina, and was Artistic Director of her own company, The Susan Warden Dancers, in Manhattan, KS and Kansas City. Susan is a well-known regional choreographer and choreographs for PWD, as well as

other area dance companies. She received two NEA Choreography Fellowships and a Kansas Arts Commission Choreography Fellowship.



940 Dance Company

Vocabulary

Choreographer: A person who creates dances.

Energy: One of the three basic elements of dance, referring to the amount and type of effort used in an action.

Modern Dance: A 20th-century dance form having limitless range of styles in which individual forms of expression are the foundation

Rhythm: An organization of

music or movement with respect to time.

Space: One of the three basic elements of dance, it is the canvas in which dancers create movement.

Time: One of the three basic elements of dance, it refers to the speed of a given action, how fast or slow.

Post-Performance Activities

1. Use the movement exercises explored in the performance to tell a story about the common experiences in your life: going to school, doing chores around the house, baking cookies, etc. Find ways to communicate these experiences to the audience using your body and movement.
2. Using the concepts explored in the performance, try communicating concepts and ideals using movement as language. Write a poem to family member and share it through dance.
3. Invent a movement vocabulary, assigning a specific movement or body shape to a word or phrase. Use your movement vocabulary to speak with a friend or family member.



List of Resources

BOOKS

No Fixed Points: Dance in the Twentieth Century
by Nancy Reynolds, Malcolm McCormick
Yale University Press;
(November 1, 2003) ISBN: 0300093667

The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life by Twyla Tharp
Simon & Schuster; (October 1, 2003)
ISBN: 0743235266

Meaning in Motion: New Cultural Studies of Dance (Post-Contemporary Interventions)
by Jane C. Desmond, Jane Desmond
Duke University Press; (May 1, 1997)
ISBN: 082231942X