

Alexandra Keith

Intro to Jazz Dance 1

Dance Analysis Paper

I recently attended a dance performance with my boyfriend up at the University Of Utah. It was called "A Celebration of Dance". It was association with the 2012 Northwest Region Conference of the American College Dance Festival Association on March 13th at Kingsbury Hall. I read about the dance concert a while back and it sounded somewhat entertaining. It talked a lot about the dance movement and how it was a cultural dance. By what I mean is it showcased a lot of different dance styles and cultures from around the world. It went from Hip Hop, African, Tango, and Folk Dance. It was different than I expected to be honest. I have never really seen a theatrical folk dance like what I saw. When coming into the concert I realized this was going to be more than just lyrical dance or any of the dance genres I like. I went into this with an open mind.

The opening number was a Hip Hop dance. It was a great way to start out the show! It was a Tribute to MTV and it did a timeline on all the generations of MTV. It first started with Britney Spears song "Baby One More Time". The whole performance was a remix of a lot of songs. The dancers had sharp, crisp movement. They hit a certain pose on a certain beat. It was so high in energy and the whole audience was really into it. They used a lot of loose movement. Since they were doing the timeline of MTV, all the dancers were dressed like

how everyone is dressed in Britney Spears's video. The movements were all around the stage. They were high up in their posture doing movements high off the ground, and at the same time they would go to the floor and do a lot of popping and locking. They were doing a lot of 90's music and the next piece of movement they used for this routine was "Shufflin" by LMFAO. It's a current song the dancers danced in a more current way. They used a lot of current dance styles like the "Shuffle". This was my favorite dance of the entire concert. It was fun, current, high in energy, etc. They also hit the movements so sharp and precise. Not a lot of props, but they used bright costumes.

The whole time the high in energy dance blew me away. It left me with the impression that the choreographer wanted the audience to be highly entertained. I haven't seen a hip hop dance with that much energy and hard hitting movements in a very long time. Overall my boyfriend and I thought the hip hop number was the best and the most entertaining in the entire show.

The next dance I want to talk about was an African dance. What I observed is that they were all dancing in a circle. I remember learning in Intro to Jazz that African dancers will dance for hours in a circle and one person will go in the middle and dance. That's exactly how this dance was. It started out with 10 or 12 people dressed in pure white baggy pants and shirts. A drum was used throughout the entire dance and all the dancers danced to the beat of the drum. While everyone was chanting while dancing there would be a few people doing tricks and dancing in the center of the circle. It was a lot of loose movement and isolation. This was the longest dance in the entire program.

I think they did that on purpose because the choreographer wanted the audience to interpret that African dance can last for hours. I really liked this piece because I saw everything in the dance that I learned in our African section dance. It was easier to get and understand and interpret this dance. I loved that no music was ever involved. It was to the drum. The movement was definitely to the beat. It involved a lot of tricks and African movement. It was a high entertaining and high energy dance.

One last dance I'll write about is a Tango. Normally I don't like ballroom but I found this dance to be sexy. The girl was dressed in a gorgeous sparkling red dress while the man looked very sharp and dressed up. It was partner work since it is a ballroom piece. It was a dance to two live violin players. The girl would hit poses and she would hit it really sharp and precise. I felt like the dance was about two former lovers or two lovers going through a rough patch. The piece just looked angry. That's why all of their moves were angry. The look on the faces of the dancers looked intense. The lighting seemed really light at some points then got really dark. At the beginning of this Tango it just showed their stilettos which I thought looked so theatrical and great. The dancers were both high in posture keeping a good straight frame the entire time. They would do turns and spins and made everything look precise and sharp.

Overall I was somewhat pleased on the performance I attended. The dances I wrote about were the ones that really spoke to me the most. I really loved that they were professional dancers as well. I could definitely tell because I don't see dancers like that every day. The program lasted about 2 hours and all the dances had very wide

variety. Every concert I've ever attended has just been one or two styles, Ballet or Contemporary. It was cool seeing it range from a Hip Hop to a Tango and even folk partner dances. All in all, I thought it was a solid performance and even though I hate folk dancing, the dancers brought high energy in every single piece so it captured my attention.