

BALANCHINE BALLET ORAL PRESENTATION

View repeatedly, and with great care, the Balanchine ballet or excerpt you have chosen. Prepare a curatorial overview of the dance to share with us in class on either April 29, or May 1. Your presentation must include the following information:

HISTORY

Year of creation for the work
Date and place of its premiere
Creators of roles in the original production of the work
Names, interesting information about these dancers and their relationship to Balanchine
Background to the creation of the work

Collaborators - costume, composer, set and lighting designers interesting information about the collaborative process

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

How did professional critics respond to this work? Did opinions of the dance change over time?

INTERPRETATION

Overview of the work's construction - how many sections, how many dancers, what musical format
Descriptive analysis - what happens in the dance; what sorts of recurring movement gestures define the work distinctively?
Interpretive analysis - what is this dance 'about?' How does it achieve meaning?

Summation - how is this dance successful? What do you think is its importance to the legacy of American ballet?

OTHER DETAILS

Your presentation can have more information than this, but it must have at least these elements. For background information, you may consult the various Encyclopedias of Dance and Ballet in the Humanities Library. For critical reviews, try The New York Times on the libraries.mit.edu website; Arlene Croce's many books of reviews of Balanchine's work; and the several Balanchine biographies in the Humanities library.* A lot of information about Balanchine is available on the web.

***None of these sources are on closed reserve, so please be considerate of your classmates, and do your work in the library. There will be no extensions for this assignment, so allow yourself enough time to do the research necessary. If you have any questions/concerns feel free to e-mail me or schedule a meeting.**

Your presentation should include a screening of the most important sections of the work, as you see fit to curate it.

TIME CONSTRAINT -- Your presentation must last no more than 10 minutes total!

Good luck!

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