



Mapping Connections to Your Theater Experience

This overview provides a preview of the big picture Enduring Understandings of each performance and preview of the Compelling Questions used to frame an Inquiry project in your classroom. We would love for what is happening on stage at Des Moines Performing Arts to provide a jumping off point to invite deeper engagement, to spark conversation, and connect to topics and objectives already present in your classroom.

Tap Explosion: Dorrance Dance

October 22, 2019 at the Civic Center

Grades 4-12

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

The act of story-telling and providing visual information about the work helps others to understand and be activated to engage in the issue.

COMPELLING QUESTIONS

- Why do people dance?
- What do we know about the history and context of the type of dance being performed? How does this performance add to the conversation in the genre? Does it replicate a tradition or do something new?
- What dance clues can you use to discern expressive intent? Consider: What can you “read” about the performance before the musical selection is interpreted? How do the lyrics/song choice change/reaffirm your understanding of the dance?
- Dance can be a factor in societal change. Agree or Disagree?
- What are the motivations of the dancers performing? How do their personal experiences, influence of other art forms, and racial/ethnic/religious/geographic/familial identities inform their expression?
- What dance do you respond to/like to do? What about that dance connects you to it? If you perform dance, what influences your decisions as a performer? How can others “read” your expressive intent when you are dancing?
- Who is in charge of the “meaning” of a piece of dance? The audience, the performer, the composer, the lighting designer, the director?
- Only people who are part of a religious/racial/cultural/ethnic group should be able to perform in the dance traditions of that group. Agree or Disagree?
- Dance is a good way to learn about culture. Agree or Disagree?

You can find more information on our website and in the Curriculum Guides that work to connect the themes of the performance to Social Studies, Writing and 21st Century Skills standards. Fine Arts Standards in Theater, Dance, and Music can connect when appropriate.

Preview of Standards connected to Inquiry Guide:

Social Studies Developing Claims and Using Evidence Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions Taking Informed Action	Literacy/Writing Research to Build and Present Knowledge 21st Century Skills Technology Literacy 21.3-5.TL.3
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