

Self-Evaluation

Community, mosaic, and individual was the theme that MCA picked out prior to this assignment for us to create a piece about. I was really excited about this theme because it was so broad that it could go in many different ways. We started off by finding out what each of these words meant and it helped me to discover personal ideas I had for example the first thing that came to mind after I learned what a mosaic was, was a puzzle. In a way we did use a puzzle with a blockus game. This helped us see how all of our phrases could fit into one community through one giant human puzzle piece. I think that we could continue to work with this theme in the future and instead of making a unified community that comes together as we dance together, we could have one that tears each other apart. We could create an alternate artistic intent that talks about individuals tear apart community and they are the missing pieces in a mosaic.

Our artistic intent is... We believe it takes individuals to create a thriving community, just as it takes multiple pieces to create the mosaic. We created this specific artistic intent due to popular belief of what the consensus of the group was saying. Most people wanted to do a dance about the building up of individual and how it created a mosaic. We wanted to use all three words and we made sure that our intent was not effected and that it used the most logical definitions of each word.

Our work ended up being around 25-30 minutes. If at the beginning we knew that we were going to have to make a dance this long, I would have thought it was impossible, there is no way I can make that much choreography and make it look good with everyone else's dancing styles and ideas. Since we started individually making 30/30/30 second phrases and 90/90 second

phrases this really helped me be able to work with the intent and create a piece that would be most appropriate for this theme. Once everyone created these we started combining together and it didn't take long before we had it all organized and realized it was 30 minutes of dancing that we all choreographed ourselves.

Personally I developed my motif of arms crossing around your back by manipulating it with actions and dynamics. I did this movement originally because I thought it represented an individual that is closed off to change and doesn't want to adapt to the community quite yet, but through manipulations and the whole group piece this motif turns into an accepting one. It occurs several times throughout my pieces but sometimes it's not as noticeable because I manipulated it and it looks completely different. I incorporated it in my 30 second piece with 08 by using gestures I wanted to see how I could use this simple movement to have a gestural meaning. I changed it to look like you were out reaching for something by having the dancer only have one arm around her back and the other one reaching for something. I slowed this movement down to see how I could change it with dynamics, I ended up using a percussive quality so that you wrap your arms around you back and then you switch quickly to the other side of your back. As a group non intentionally we change the motif of clapping some dancers do it as a signal for the dancers to go on stage or to start dancing others use it within their dancing with a turn or while bending down, or doing a jump. We manipulated this by relationships, I think by having everyone dance together doing different movement we were able to follow, lead, and connect with each other and develop this motif.

Some pieces were manipulated more than others to fit the look of the section, for example two pieces in isolations were separated at first, but we saw two people were doing similar movement so we combined it so they were doing some of the same movement at the same time. This occurs with 10 and 02 in the isolation section. Originally we just repeating the A phrase exactly the same each time, but after viewing our first performance we looked back on it and decided we should make changes so that it relates to the next section. I liked how we were able to change our phrases to fit the intent for the whole group in the one section.

Dynamics is the quality of the movement it can completely change how a dance or movement looks. We used dynamic changes in our dance such as swinging, sustaining, stillness, tempo changes, and percussive movements. In the duet with 05 and 10 they are doing very percussive movement that is a break from the rest of the dances that are typically down with a smooth and connected type of feeling to it. I think that with dynamics we are able to help add performance qualities to our dance that weren't there before by having multiple dynamic qualities in one dance it makes it more interesting and easier for the artist to have fun with the movement and make it their own. In the dance using juxtaposition choreographed by 07 and 12 the quality in this piece swinging. The movements flow together and swing around it helps create a flying effect. Dynamics are used throughout our whole dance and really help to break things up and make things stand out.

There are many ways you can use space effectively, I've learned. You can have dancers all around in the space randomly or perfectly aligned in rows and columns both are equally effective. In my 90 second phrase I use space effectively by creating a wall of dancers walking

together they go from downstage to upstage and from stage right to stage left. By doing this it shows the different views of the line of dancers and takes up the whole stage. I decided to do this to show the individuals coming together and unify as one but still while keeping their individual personalities. We use levels very effectively, many pieces are on the floor, and some use elevation, that included jumping, turns, and standing or jumping off of chairs. One jumps off of a chair for example to show a variety of levels. We have many pathways the most are seen in our relationship section. Dancers often go in and out of each other to create different patterns. We use lots of different entrances and exists in our piece in the A section we go off in a circle to where our next entrance is.

The beginning and the end of our piece is strong. We start with the A section with each of us holding hands and walking together. The end is with our A section but we have two dancers stay behind and sit in two chairs and say “We believe!” We got the idea of ending like this because PL Paige Parks suggested we say our intent in the beginning of each section to help form ideas and we liked it so we changed it so that in the end the dancers say this to help make the intent clear.

We use a Rondo form to make our intent stronger. By combining our phrases and separating them by using an A section it helps show our intent. We got the idea of using a Rondo from because PL Paige Parks showed us Zero Degree by Akram Khan and we liked the way it was structure and organized, he used a Rondo form so we thought for our project we could use a rondo form and it would help our dance be organized as well. I think that studying different artists was helpful to my choreographic process. We studied Alvin Ailey, Akram Khan, Alonzo

King, and Jiri Kylian. Each artist had different qualities that I liked about them as well as ones that I didn't. I tried to use some of the best qualities I thought from each of them was the strongest when considering different changes to make to my choreography. Like Akram Khan he chose to work with dancers and choreographers that he thought they would both get something out of. I chose to work with dancers that inspired me with their dancing and I hoped to inspire them with my choreography. I liked setting this challenge for myself. I don't think I would have discovered new things about myself as an artist if I didn't and I don't think I could have made these discoveries on my own.

The movement isn't directly related to our music, which I think is a good thing that helps me become a stronger performer as an artist, by being able to dance to music that doesn't fit the already set dynamics. It makes so you have to make dynamics in your choreography as you go along. The genre of music we chose was contemporary with sound effects in some songs. The composers are Olafur Arnalds and Helios. The speed of the music is sometimes fast, moderate, or slow. I think it's good to have a variety so that it challenges us to work with all types of music so that we can be prepared for the future. The quality of our music is sustaining, percussive, silent, mellow, edgy, and atmospheric. Having all these different qualities gives us more opportunity to try new qualities with our movement we created.

We believe it takes individuals to create a thriving community, just as it takes multiple pieces to create the mosaics. We further developed it and started saying some words in our A section. We chose to change it because we outgrew the one we made and needed a new one that challenged us so that we can continue to grow. We didn't change the actual words, but in my

mind I altered the meaning of it. Rather than thinking that individuals created the community I think that the community makes the dancers this gave me ideas for the pathways in corruption that are resolve in the A section when we are walking in a circle but without holding hands.

I think that we did use appropriate production elements for our piece it helped to enhance our intent and show that we are individuals in a unified community. The individuality was seen in the different colored leotard we wore underneath. The community aspect was seen with the white shirts and black bottoms. By choosing neutral colors we were able to not distract the audience with the craziness of color but rather have them looking at our dancing.

When I first receive feedback from a teacher I get scared and think that they are disappointed in me, but after a little while I realized that they think that I am capable of doing more and I can extend my knowledge. I'm great full to receive such in depth feedback otherwise I wouldn't have improved as much as I did with my choreography this year. I tend to apply the corrections that I'm given into my choreography because I like to try new things because you never really know how something might turn out until you try it. When I did try making the line a more prominent thing in my choreography I just thought of making the dance longer and making new choreography but 07 suggested I start with the line in the beginning and I really like that idea and it helped me revise my piece. Revisions are very important it is good to grow and change your choreography so that you can clean the dance. This helps it come across more organized to the audience.

My choreographic process started out with the intent The stimulus was the pictures and worldes I made prior to this explaining what I thought my community was like then, I improved with that thought in my mind and it helped me come up with a couple movements I could use in my phrases. Then I created a phrase and from there I manipulated it with choreographic devices and created and sequence of movement by combining all of my phrases into one. With the rest of my class we put my phrase in the unity section and with my sequence created a section. I think I'm best at manipulating a phrase with choreographic devices, this is the part I am the most passionate about because there are so many possibilities and I find it really fun to create patterns and figure out counts to make a canon on. I like the challenge that it comes with.

I don't think I am the best at coming up with movement that is related to the intent, although through MCAs I was able to improve in this area I think I could do better. I also need to use more dynamics to make my movements more powerful so that it's not so soft.

I feel okay with my work I feel like it could have been better or longer I could have used more dancers but what I did makes me feel accomplished. I would like to have more percussive movements in it and make the piece longer so it doesn't end so abruptly. I would like to watch it myself so I can see what it looks like from an audience perspective. Overall I think I did a good job, having this be the first huge project that I created with my peers.