

Comparison and Contrast of Choreographic Tendencies

Mandy Moore (1984-), William Forsythe (1949-) and Merce Cunningham (1919-2009) were all unique choreographers for their time. They all explored the possibilities of their choreography and chose the process and final image they were looking for.

Moore often times adapted to the technical abilities of her dancers while Cunningham and Forsythe created their own movements and technique. Even though Moore controlled her choreography to fit her dancers, Cunningham and Forsythe did the exact opposite. Cunningham left the choreography his pieces to the chance method, whereas Forsythe created a strict guideline or alphabet of movements for his dancers. Even though Forsythe's choreography was controlled to a specific alphabet both his and Cunningham's dancers had to rise to their demands.

One characteristic that is unique to Forsythe is his application of choreography to everyday life. He would choreograph the placement inanimate objects to serve in harmonious efficiency and often times encouraged others to do the same.

Cunningham had a unique creative process in that he used chance to determine many aspects of his pieces, including the order of the dance moves, the dancer, lighting and even which show to perform. He also utilized the spine in his movements rather than having the hand, foot or head lead the movements.

Moore's unique aspect is her use of negative space in her choreography and freedom of movement regardless of technical ability. For Forsythe and Cunningham technique was absolutely necessary to be able to perform their bold moves and choreography. However, Moore takes what you can offer and makes the dance accessible to everyone.

All of the choreographers utilized thier communities, whether as inspiration or for the use of the members within it. Forsythe used the community of the neo-classical era as his basis for

his choreography. Cunningham embodied the relationship between life and communities in his choreographic process. And Moore brings together all members of different communities and helps them find a place in her pieces.