

Most of Ailey's works are connected to the African American life back then and all the hardships that he and his family went through. Ailey's dances include a lot of churches, relations to rural areas, and for musical inspiration, he used work songs and traditional African American blues and spirituals. Using these aspects in his pieces helped create a soulful story that many African Americans had experienced.

The way that Ailey created his pieces were through memory and experience and past and present emotions about certain situations he went through. By taking these emotions, Ailey was able to create a beautiful, well put together and meaningful piece that many people understood and could sometimes relate to, even if they didn't go through the same exact thing that he did. Although Ailey didn't have a very clear way of how he created his pieces, he took what he had that meant something to him and turned it into something visual so everyone could see.

The way that this ties into our group statement is that he created a moment for the audience to remember. He made sure that all of his choreographies were something from the heart and that way people could relate to it. Not everyone that enjoys watching Ailey's work is black, so not all of us can directly relate to some of the situations going on on the stage. But by creating pieces so universally understandable with moral and lessons that anyone could learn, it made a really big difference in how the audience perceived it.

Having that connection with the audience is what our statement is all about. It's important to us, and it should be to every choreographer, how the audience sees our dance and what they get from it rather than just liking it because it was pretty. It's not always about the end result, but the audience and what they saw and what really touched their hearts.