

Wavering Paths- Sr. Choreographic Project

Choreography: Mysha Corb

Composer: Michael Nyman

Performer: Ahn Trio

Dancers: Mysha Corb, Kara Cross, Chelsea Dowden, Kathleen Higgins, Hannah Schultz, Marka Wood

“Don’t leave the ending to the ending.”

-Doris Humphrey

The Creative Process as Applied to Choreography

Mysha Corb, Dance Department

The choreographic process begins by creating shorter phrases of movement that demonstrate unique shapes and style. The goal is to use your movement to portray a theme or tell a story. “Wavering Paths” is about not being able to predict where your relationships end up going. You’ll notice the use of duets frequently used throughout the piece.

Manipulation is applied to the movement to give the dance dimension. The piece is not performed the exact same way on all 6 dancers the entire time. For example, directional changes are used at the beginning of the piece, and a canon is used near the end when the dancers are in 2 columns.

Midway, music should be chosen and the choreographer can really connect the different phrases of movement with transitions and formations. Also, the beginning and ending of the piece will start to become more of a task because they require much more thought in order for the theme to make sense. Our music cannot have words unless it is in a different language, they prefer that it is unrecognizable to the audience, and we have to keep in mind that the dance must be a minimum of 5 minutes in length. Music works best when it is dynamic and non-repetitious, and it should support the choreography. “Wavering Paths” really has 3 pieces of ‘music’ because we consider silence to be an option and it is used to begin and end my piece.

The final steps in the process are making the dance stage-ready with costuming, lighting, and a title. The lighting is adjusted as the music builds in my piece.

Ways to Manipulate Movement:

- **Repetition**- repeating movement
- **Retrograde**- performing backward like rewinding
- **Size**- performing bigger or smaller
- **Tempo**- fast, slow, stillness
- **Rhythm**-varying the rhythm
- **Staging**- at a different place on stage or facing different ways
- **Canon**- a single theme executed at different times
- **Quality**- doing the same movement sharp, jumpy, heavy, smooth, etc.

