

## How to Experience Dance

Use these questions to guide your thinking the next time you watch a dance performance.

- Is there a narrative? Is the dance linear or vague? Is it abstract?
- If there is no obvious narrative, can you build one of your own? Consider repeated movements, patterns, and relationships of dancers to see if that enables you to create a narrative.
- What role do the costumes play in the dance performance? Were they effective?
- Did you notice the lighting? Does it enhance the dance?
- Is there music to accompany the dance? How is it used by the choreographers and dancers? What is the relationship between the music and the dance?
- Is there a relationship between the title and the dance for you?
- Does the dance make you feel anything? Does it trigger any memories?
- What is the relationship of the dancers to each other? What is their relationship to the audience?
- Could the work be replaced by another art form such as poetry, painting, music, etc.? Why or why not?
- Compare this performance to dance you have seen in a other settings (club dancing, parties, etc.), at a sporting event (half time shows), or in the media (MTV, commercials, movies, etc.) What are the similarities and differences?
- Compare the performance to a canvas and see how movement activates different parts of the stage.