

The Distinctions between Classical Ballet and Modern Dance

Doris 傅慧雯

The phrase - "to dance is trying to get rid of the gravity" has been stuck in my mind since the year I began my educational, dance career, at the age of eight. As a beginner, I proceeded with Classical Ballet, the most graceful yet toilsome dance. A few years later, I danced not only Classical Ballet but also Modern Dance, which changed my viewpoint toward dancing. I had thought that dancing is only about performance and entertainment, but my perception was changed after I learned Modern Dance; it showed me that dancing is not only what I had perceived it to be (How did your perception change?). From then on, I attempted to collect information of various styles of dance. Not until the age of twelve, did I gradually discover that the distinctions among different kinds of dance are due to the differences in origins, as well as essential concepts. And what impressed me the most was unveiling the distinctions between Classical Ballet and Modern Dance.

Classical Ballet evolved from Neo-classicism, which put heavy emphasis on rules, hierarchal orders, and flawlessness. Under this influence, every ballet dancer is required to follow to a strict dress code that demands performers bind their hair and dance in high heel shoes. Moreover, the five classic positions of the feet and other ballet gestures are based on concept of the circle, which also symbolizes perfection. The various rules of ballet serve to create coherence, so that the appearances of the dancers maintain the same form before and after every motion. As a result, a classical Ballet performance can always move the audiences by its magnificent wonderfulness. Nevertheless, despite the attractive elements of Classical Ballet, it only appeals, for the most part, to the nobles or people who are in upper class. Consequently, Classical Ballet often delivers stories that are related to the higher class and the stories happen

删除: -

删除: to

删除: , permanently,

删除: ,

删除: ,

删除: Few

删除: that

删除: ,

删除: have

删除: the

删除: ,

删除: ,

删除: impressive

删除: is to unveil

删除: emphases

删除: dress-code

删除: even assures

删除: to

删除: s

删除: with

删除: Ballet

删除: that

删除: in

删除: in which

删除: possesses

often, if not always, in court.

删除: the

At the turn of the century (which century?), Modern Dance surfaced during the era of Modernism. Conversely, it aims to deconstruct the formalism, artifice, and superficiality that Classical Ballet advocates. The goal of Modern Dance is to launch a new awareness of inner or outer realities. When the Modern dancers perform, they

wear all that you could image but the formal Ballet costumes and their feet are bare-naked on the stage. To Modern Dance, the emphasis on the central idea of the

删除: bear naked

choreographer is far more important than abiding by the restriction or rules on

删除: to abide

dress-code. This gives Modern Dance more creativity and vitality. It focuses on delivering the feeling of people's lives, which explains why it must be performed with

a universal approach. Unlike Classical Ballet's weak fan base, Modern Dance shares

删除: n

art essential to all walks of life. A poor child, a homeless person, or a widow can be

删除: artistic

the main character of its stories, and the plague, a funeral, or a forest also can be the

删除: people

included. Watching a Modern Dance performance often raises an issue that we, the

删除: the

audiences, rarely think about.

删除: the

删除: the caution to

Although Modern Dance is favored in performance, the elements of Classical Ballet remain the basic requirements or fundamentals of a dancer. As an audience

删除: to be

member, I maintain my passion for dance, along with other art performances.

删除: the

Meanwhile, I am motivated to delve into the historical backgrounds of art and appreciate the heritages in a full-scale perspective.

References:

<http://www.arte.gov.tw/mdance/a/a.htm>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/ent/A0856824.html>