

Choreography for Drumline

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CLASS OBJECTIVES

- Vocabulary for describing and creating movement for a common language for designers, staff, students, and judges
 - Develop skill of creating concept-specific choreography
 - Do's and Don'ts of drumline choreography
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Movement Fundamentals

SHAPE

TEMPO

CONCEPT/
THEME

CONSTRUCTION

DYNAMICS

SHAPE

Range of Motion

- Levels -
Low/Mid/High
- Scale - Small to Large
- Floor work
- Use of torso
- Variety

Transition

- Pathway from shape
to shape
- Dimensionality
- Body facing
- Initiation of
movement

Complexity

- Single body part vs.
multi-body part
(polycentric)
- Involvement of torso
- Angular vs. curvilinear
- Attention to
detail/nuance



TEMPO

- Speed
 - Sustained
 - Quick
 - Rhythm
 - Syncopation
 - Musicality
 - Variety
-

DYNAMICS = Movement Textures

- Sharp - Smooth
- Heavy - Light
- Free - Bound
- Direct - Indirect

**The previous slides are a simplified version
(and some modified vocabulary) of 'Laban
Movement Analysis' if you are interested in
further research.**

CONCEPT / THEME

THEMATIC MOVEMENT

Use of shape, tempo, and dynamic to further develop concept through choreography

EXPRESSION

Communicating emotion/conceptual development through face and movement

PROPS

Use of props to support/develop theme

MOTIF

Recurrent and memorable movement phrase repeated thru show

**Using instinctive emotional/physical reactions
to create choreography around a theme**

CREATIVITY

- Originality
- Have I seen this movement before?
- Is the movement vocabulary unique to this show or could it fit into any drumline show?

CONSTRUCTION

- Continuity into and out of choreography
 - Taking drums on/off
 - Incorporating movement into drill and while playing
 - Seamless flow that utilized movement throughout
- Role of Vis Ensemble
 - Integration into drumline
 - Handling all choreographic needs?
 - Movement demand of drummers

CHOREOGRAPHY - DON'TS

- Try to make drummers into dancer
 - Unnecessary to include 'dance skills'
- Hire a choreographer and leave them unattended



CHOREOGRAPHY - DO'S

- Communicate/Collaborate with visual team
 - Counts, accents to emphasize, etc
- Consider limitations/opportunities wearing drums
- Create movement that the performers can buy into
 - Develop trust by coaching members thru movement and making changes where needed



Thank you for coming!

