POST PERFORMANCE EDUCATION RESOURCE

Select Option

Contents

Introduction: Dance, Youth Dance, Curriculum, concept ........................................... 2
From the Artistic Director ................................................................................................. 3
QL2 Centre For Youth Dance ............................................................................................ 4
Quantum Leap youth dance ensemble ............................................................................ 5
Select Option: Outline of the performance ..................................................................... 7
Production team .............................................................................................................. 11
Cast ................................................................................................................................. 12
Activity 1 - Novel Study ................................................................................................. 13
Activity 2 - Role Play ..................................................................................................... 13
Activity 3 - Hindsight Art ............................................................................................... 13
Activity 4 - Media & Discussion .................................................................................... 13
Activity 5 - Current & World Issues ............................................................................. 14
Activity 6 - Social Issues for Young People ................................................................. 14
Activity 7 - Discussion of Yes Man .............................................................................. 15
Activity 8 - Discussion of Relationships ...................................................................... 15
Activity 9 - Discussion of Manipulation ...................................................................... 17
Activity 10 - Discussion of Career ............................................................................... 18
Activity 11 - Discussion of Forms ............................................................................... 19
Activity 12 - Choreographic Challenge ........................................................................ 22
Activity Thirteen: Write a Review ............................................................................... 20
Healthy Dance .............................................................................................................. 21
Hot tips to play safely in dance .................................................................................... 23
INTRODUCTION: DANCE, YOUTH DANCE, CURRICULUM, CONCEPT

This education resource is designed to enhance the educative experience and artistic appreciation of Select Option. It offers ideas and suggestions to facilitate in depth exploration and personal experience of the ideas and processes used to create Select Option, Quantum Leap’s latest contemporary dance production.

The education materials supplied here by QL2 Centre for Youth Dance are offered as a guide and resource for teachers and students. They are intended as an entry point for discussion and provide example classroom projects. Educators are encouraged to design additional extension activities.

What is contemporary dance?

Contemporary dance is the present day development of modern dance, which is a group of dance techniques and philosophies that broke away from the Classical ballet tradition in the early 1900’s. Modern dance’s driving philosophy was to explore the expressive nature of the body and movement in new ways. With modern and post modern dance techniques at its core contemporary dance continues this exploration of new physical modes of expression by drawing on and combining many different movement and physical training philosophies, including those from close to home and from across the globe. This enables a diverse and expressive movement vocabulary. Choreographic process and the expressive quality of movement is the core concern of contemporary dance. With a grounding in modern dance techniques, each individual choreographer develops their own style based on their own dance knowledge, experience and interests. This means that contemporary dance can explore and communicate across many domains of knowledge, using many modalities. It uses time, space, shape, energy, imagery and metaphor; and its most powerful tool – the human visceral phenomenon of kinaesthesia. Dance is a heightened form of non-verbal communication — rich in gesture, meaning, expression and affect. It is one of the major vehicles through which Australian stories and cultural diversity are communicated to the world.

What is youth dance?

Youth dance engages young people with professional choreographers, to enable their hearts and minds to speak through movement in complex, professional productions. It builds collaborative skills and creativity by encouraging young people to participate in the choreographic process with their own ideas and movement. Our aim is to excite, challenge and engage both the dancers and audiences, with dance works of profound depth, on issues close to the hearts of young people.

What educational benefits does a dance performance provide?

Dance provides teachers and students with the opportunity to:

- Explore issues confronting young people such as global issues, connectedness, difference, separation, segregation, tolerance, miscommunication and humanity;
- See students from ACT government and non-government schools demonstrate skills in quality contemporary dance and performance;
- Respect the skills of male, female, indigenous and visiting international dancers;
- Provide curriculum links for students through the Arts, Drama, Media, English and social studies;
- Appreciate and analyse non-verbal and non-literal modes of communication.
- Learn the skills of interpreting themes in dance and critically assess its strengths and weaknesses;
- Enjoy dance created with young people, for young people.
Curriculum Mapping

**ACT Curriculum – Every Chance to Learn** – through:
- ELA 1 uses a range of strategies to think and learn
- ELA 4 acts with integrity and regard for others
- ELA 5 contributes to group effectiveness
- ELA 7 creates, presents and appreciates artistic works
- ELA 14 manages self and relationships
- ELA 15 communicates with intercultural understanding
- ELA 22 understands and values what it means to be a citizen within a democracy
- ELA 23 understands world issues and events

**NSW Board of Studies and Department of Education**

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education through learning modules
- Self and Relationships
- Movement Skill and Performance
- Individual and Community Health
- Lifelong Physical Activity

**Dance**

“All students study dance performance, composition and appreciation. They will learn about how dance expresses ideas, feelings and experiences as they construct dance compositions to communicate ideas. They learn about people, culture and society as they study and analyse dance performances, compositions and dance works of art.”

Year 7-10 syllabus Course description

**English**

Students engage with and explore literature of past and contemporary societies, as well as a range of spoken, visual, media and multimedia texts.

**Select Option — concept**

*Select Option* touches on a theme common to all people – choice. To young people in particular, making choices can be seen as many things: liberating, stressful, even scary. *Select Option* asks how we arrive at the choices we make, what influences and whose advice they take into consideration, how willing we are to go along with the group and when we choose to stand apart, and how we become confident in our own ability to make good choices.

**FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Welcome to our annual Quantum Leap at the Playhouse production *Select Option*. This year’s theme explores the vast and important subject of making choices.

As the company’s annual flagship project, Quantum Leap at the Playhouse is always an exciting and special event.
The evolution of these initial ideas into the production you see today has involved many people including four commissioned choreographers, two composers and 44 dancers, alongside filmmakers, a costume designer and the QL2 staff. The entire team has worked honestly and generously to pool their energy, creativity, thoughts and ideas. Working in such a collaborative way has enabled an array of interesting perspectives that contribute to the total production you see today.

Select Option is a new full length dance work in two acts, choreographed by professional choreographers selected from all over Australia and featuring an original music score. This year’s ensemble is made up of 44 performers aged from 14 to 25. The cast includes 14 male and 30 female dancers who have worked on this project since March. They have come from all areas of the ACT, and surrounding regions, with four travelling from Wagga Wagga, Cowra and the Blue Mountains to participate. As part of our ongoing Visiting Dancer Program we are fortunate to have one dancer from Cowra, two from Steps Youth Dance Company in Perth and one tertiary dance student from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, all joining us for the last month of the project.

How it came together...

The choreographers for Select Option are Brian Lucas, Liz Lea, Reed Luplau and Marko Panzic. They have travelled from Brisbane, Sydney and London to work with the ensemble. They are all extremely busy professionals who are experienced dancers, choreographers and teachers committed to making original dance work with strong thematic content, and are all interested in working with young people.

We are pleased to continue our association with two talented composers from Brisbane and Sydney – Nicholas Ng and Adam Ventoura. They have collaborated with the choreographers to create inspiring original music for each act.

In partnership with the creative team at Bearcage Productions we have had the opportunity to develop our theme onto film to complement the choreographers’ ideas and further elevate our production levels. Quantum Ideas Design House continues to support us with their inspired design for our programs, posters and flyers.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the creation of Select Option. It is inspiring to work with such an enthusiastic, energetic and totally committed team of artists of all ages. The theme of choice is relevant to people of all ages and stages in their lives, but it is particularly important for young people to consciously consider where they are heading and who they want to be as people. This has been rich subject to create a dance work around and has been vitally important for the Quantum Leapers. I thank them for their thoughtfulness, creativity and commitment and hope their performance inspires you.

Ruth Osborne,
Artistic Director of QL2 Centre for Youth Dance

QL2 CENTRE FOR YOUTH DANCE

Our Artistic Director, Ruth Osborne, is passionate about extending Youth Dance beyond training, beyond ‘young people dancing’, to immersive, creative, ongoing dance experiences. She brings together community and professional practice and presents quality performances to diverse audiences. We develop the next generation of dance-makers, and contribute to a passionate, caring, diverse society. We generate challenging diverse and rigorous youth dance activities. We believe in dance as an expressive art form, and as a vehicle for community and personal development. We make a positive difference to the lives of young people, in Canberra, Australia and beyond. QL2 Centre for Youth Dance has grown out of The Australian Choreographic Centre, with 11 years of excellence in youth dance with ‘Quantum Leap’ – Canberra’s own youth dance ensemble.
QUANTUM LEAP youth dance ensemble

Quantum Leap is QL2's auditioned, elite youth dance ensemble. It provides a vibrant, demanding, supportive and structured environment for young people to gain an understanding of choreographic processes, develop choreographic literacy and work together to create sophisticated productions that wrestle with big ideas. These high quality works emerge from collaborative processes: the dancers form part of the creative team with professional choreographers, composers and filmmakers.

The development workshops, rehearsals and performances require commitment and focus. They give a sound orientation for university tertiary dance courses, developing a mature and experienced approach to dance performance and creation while giving an insight into professional dance practice. We audition enthusiastic, determined young people with training or experience in movement, for example: contemporary dance, street funk, breakdance, classical ballet, jazz dance, tap, gymnastics, martial arts and circus skills. We conduct audition workshops for each major project – that's how you become a member of Quantum Leap, and then you may be selected for other projects through the year. Auditions are usually held in February and August. We welcome young people from the region around Canberra, though travel and accommodation are the responsibility of the dancer. In past projects, dancers have travelled from the NSW south coast, Cowra, Young, Canowindra, Newcastle and Sydney to participate.

We also have a visiting dancer program for secondments from tertiary dance courses across Australia and for selected overseas groups including New Zealand and Thailand, who join the ensemble for short periods.

We spark creative tensions and physical challenges for both boys and girls.
SELECT OPTION: OUTLINE OF THE PERFORMANCE

ACT 1

Composer: Adam Ventoura

Make a Choice

Choreographer – Ruth Osborne & cast

What choice do you make with the cards that have been dealt to you?

Sweat the Small Stuff (#1)

Choreographer – Brian Lucas in collaboration with the performers

In life, we continually have to make selections from a range of options. Sometimes, these decisions have to do with major issues, but more often than not they are about very mundane, everyday things.

Sometimes we have these elections made for us – whether we want them to be or not, and sometimes we ourselves are the object of someone else’s process of choice.

Remember that every option that you select, no matter how small, has an impact – not just on you, but also on everyone else around you.

Those moments of decision are incredibly important...

Which way do I go? Who do I choose? What option should I select?

While we sometimes get a chance to reflect & consider before we decide, there are times when we have to make up our mind in the blink of an eye...and sometimes, other people make the choices for us.

Choose a Path

Choreographer – Ruth Osborne

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference” – Robert Frost

Select Red

Choreographer – Liz Lea
Sometimes we need a little help to discover that we have choices in life...a protagonist to show us the way. What we discover about ourselves and others can be surprising – some find too many choices and others realize it is only about choosing to be who you really are.

Once you are free to choose, how far do you choose to go? Either way the journey is uplifting and the only option is to select red!

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**Step into a Choice**

*Choreographer* – Ruth Osborne

"The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."

-Flora Whittemore

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**Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (#2)**

*Choreographer* – Brian Lucas in collaboration with the performers

*Sweat the Small Stuff & Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* are parts of a whole – different perspectives on the same situations. The dancers and I have collaborated to explore what it is like to be the object of someone else’s decision, and have also sought to look at how time gets distorted in the process of deciding... the blink of an eye, the hours of endless considerations...

These works are the results of a close and intense collaboration, and hopefully they allow the voices and identities of the performers to speak to you about their ideas, beliefs and personalities.

This exploration into the dance-theatre form is a chance for the dancers to express their own sense of what it means to consider options, and provide them with the option of revealing or concealing as much about themselves as they choose.

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**The Independent Choice**

*Choreographer* – Ruth Osborne

Sometimes we need to stand alone to make a decision, but what does it mean to make a truly independent choice?

------INTERVAL------
Act 2: Transform

Composer: Adam Ventoura

"Transform looks into the world of 5 strangers. This is an insight to the choices which affect our everyday paths including career choice, relationships, what people expect of you, filling out a simple form or for some people, just going with the flow.

As we know the journey through life is all up to what you want and what you decide. A choice can affect more than one person, which can ultimately change everyone’s lives. We can all relate to one another, but everyone’s choices are different and everyone’s decisions lead them to a different route.

We are exploring 5 different characters and choices that are relevant to today’s society.

transform: to change in form, appearance, or structure; metamorphose"

Reality Show

Choreographers – Marko Panzic & Reed Luplau

Career

Choreographers – Marko Panzic & Reed Luplau

Forms

Choreographers – Marko Panzic & Reed Luplau

Manipulation

Choreographer – Reed Luplau

Yes Man

Choreographer – Marko Panzic

Relationships

Choreographer – Marko Panzic
To Transform
Choreographer – Reed Luplau

Free to Choose
Choreographer – Ruth Osborne

There are many pressures, stresses and pulls on us when making choices. It’s easy to forget sometimes, that unlike so many others, often we are lucky to have the freedom to choose.

-----END OF PERFORMANCE-----
PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director
Assistant to the Artistic Director
Choreographers

Ruth Osborne
Haley Schmidt
Brian Lucas
Liz Lea
Marko Panzic
Reed Luplau
Nick Ng
Adam Ventoura

Composers

Production Manager & Lighting Designer
Stage Manager
Costume Design
Costume Construction
Sound recording

Kaoru Alfonso
Anthony Arblaster
Eline Martinsen
Eline Martinsen & CIT First Year Fashion Design Students
Kimmo Vennonen

The Film Unit
(Bearcage Productions)
Executive Producer
Director
Production Manager
Director of Photography
Editor
Broadcast Design
Sound Designer

Michael Tear
Clare Young
Asher Floyd
Robb Shaw-Velzen
Daniel Llewelyn
Ben Cochrane, Nick Wansbrough, Krissan Pattugalan
Nick Munnings, Matthew Nightingale

Administration
General Manager
Administrator
Schools Liaison

Gary Barnes
Sarah Kaur
Dianna Nixon
CAST

Aimee Brown
Amanda Lee
Brittney Vaughan
Chloe Chignell
Courtney Buglia
Eliza Sanders
Emily Ashcroft
Erin Watt
Freya Orford-Dunne
Gautam Koul (G-Luv)
Gerard Dewhurst
Jack Riley
Jessica Downing
John Lewis
Lance
Madison Hegarty
Michael Post
Millie Poole
Paul Jackson
Rene Miller
Sam Young-Wright
Stephanie Livingstone

Alex Kane
Bridget Barnicoat
Casey Keed
Courtney Lee
Courtney Turvey
Elizabeth Wensing
Emma Batchelor
Henry McAlpine
Gabrielle Kirchner
Georgia McGeechan
Isabelle Webster
James Batchelor
Jessica Stone
Kathleen Myer
Lara McGirr
Mercie Taylor
Michelle Norris
Nicolas Mena
Pierce Jackson
Samuel Maxted
Simon Read
Tamar Peacock