

Time Period	Key Figures	Style + Contribution	Connections & Evolution
Late 1800s – Early 1900s	Isadora Duncan (1877–1927)	Early Modern Dance Free, expressive movement	Rejected European ballet and influenced early modern pioneers
	Loie Fuller (1862–1928)	Visual and technological experimentation	Influenced theatrical innovation in dance
	Ruth St. Denis (1879–1968) & Ted Shawn (1891–1972)	Denishawn School Spiritual, multicultural inspirations	Trained Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey
1920s–1940s	Martha Graham (1894–1991)	Contraction & release, dramatic themes	Student of Denishawn; influenced Cunningham, Taylor
	Doris Humphrey (1895–1958)	Fall and recovery; musicality	Mentor to José Limón
1940s–1960s	Merce Cunningham (1919–2009)	Chance procedures, abstract movement	Worked with John Cage; broke narrative/form
	José Limón (1908–1972)	Humanistic, powerful male roles	Developed technique based on Humphrey principles
	Alvin Ailey (1931–1989)	African-American cultural expression in dance	Fused ballet, modern, jazz; “Revelations”
1960s–1980s	Pina Bausch (1940–2009)	Tanztheater theatrical, emotional dance	Inspired by Jooss and expressionism

	Trisha Brown (1936–2017)	Postmodern dance / pedestrian movement	Part of Judson Dance Theater; evolved Cunningham ideas
	Twyla Tharp (b. 1941)	Fusion of classical, jazz, pop	Collaborated with ballet and Broadway
1980s–2000s	Bill T. Jones (b. 1952)	Political, identity-focused works	Postmodern lineage + social commentary
	Mark Morris (b. 1956)	Musicality, humor, Baroque revival	Reconciles ballet and modern technique
	Ohad Naharin (b. 1952)	Gaga Movement Language	Director of Batsheva; influenced contemporary floorwork
2000s–Today	Crystal Pite (b. 1970)	Storytelling with contemporary edge	Combines ballet and theatricality
	Akram Khan (b. 1974)	Kathak + contemporary fusion	Cultural hybridity in movement
	Kyle Abraham (b. 1977)	Hip-hop, contemporary, identity-based work	Merges social dance with concert form