# Emancipation of expressionism

* **Historical, social and cultural influences**

2011 England Riots - Social and Cultural Context of piece

What happened:

* series of riots between 6th and 11th August 2011
* thousands of people rioting towns and cities in England
* resulted in 5 deaths
* looting, arson and mass deployment
* police murdered a black man called Mark Duggan
  + known for gun violence and homicide
  + planned to arrest him but shoot him instead
* occurred in train station

Repercussion

* generated ongoing debate amongst political, social figures about the causes and context in which they happened
* attributions to violent behaviour included:
  + social factors:
    - racial tension
    - class tension
    - economic decline
    - unemployment

From the news

* Metropolitan police force is racist
* it's a colour war but they're careful in how they oppress people
* they've been systematically removing the area's black communities -> ethically cleansing them
* to reduce the tensions from the riots - police reduced the volume of stop-searches
  + more frequent stop and searches with the black community -> more than twice the rate among the white population
* the police are more distance and they don't talk
* they have opted for a more aggressive policing style to intimidate the citizens
* they keep control of people on the streets by picking on people for minor offences
* young black men are disproportionately representing through stop and search, arrests, charging and overally discriminatory treatment
* youth centres are closing
  + meaning that young people no longer have premises to their immediate doorstep that they can go to
  + 88 youth centres in London closed or funding cut
* social peace is fragile
* unemployment is real

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Genesis | Growth and struggle | Connection and flow between people | Empowerment |
| * + race   + freedom | * + freedom   + struggle in the community   + lack of empowerment   + discrimination   + youth violence   + violence | * + equality -> everyone wearing the same costume   + race   + local -> community | * + rights   + emancipation   + being in control again -> lighting: a new colour |

children, teenagers have been killed by knives which is a daily occurrence in London

* black men are disproportionately the victims
* young
* higher risk of being a victim of a violent assault
* **Trends**

Urban vibe

Street Dance

Electronic/digital music

Trend NO.1 - hip hop/street dance/ urban

hip hip

commercial

mission statement seen as an art form

each dancer explores a style of hip hop individually

Trend NO.2 - inspiration from pop culture/everyday life - rubrics cube

chariots of fire

rugby scrum

rubik's cube

links to popular culture embedded throughout

Trend NO.3 - entertainment

accessable as a cinematic experience

lighting effects - different point of views

editing effects - slow motion

Procedium arch

Trend NO.4 - political statements

london riots

racism

human rights

* **An overview of the work**

**Overview of work**

* choreographed by Kenrick "H20" Sandy
* inspired by 4 starting points that related to human experiences and everyday moments in life:
  + birth
  + journey
  + connection
  + freedom
* sampling from different aspects of hip hop and street dance forms to create an exciting and varied movement vocabulary

**Choreographic information**

* each section filled with scenes, movement and the whole work is a journey
* based on an emotion that is intended to create a particular mood such as wanting to give personal space
  + shown in game over
  + unity which is shown in the rugby scrum
* wants audience to feel like they're witnessing and sharing an emotional journey through the piece

**Generating movement**

* set phrases of movement in response to different musical features such as rhythm and timbre
* experiences in response to music and the theme he is working with
* developing them further through extending them and experimenting with the wat they can be staged
* uses inspiration from everyday life to create and explore images in the studio
* inspirations from top cultures:
  + such as the Chariots of Fire motif which was inspired by the show with the same name
  + the rugby scrum
  + the mechanisms of the rubik's cube in genesis for his special formation
* regularly sets structured freestyle tasks to create their own movement material to a particular part of the music
  + could be responding to theme or mood
    - uses the oportunity to use their specilisms and express their individual performance identities with the performance of the piece

**Exploring and abstracting movement from hip-hop and street dance styles**

* uses signature company motifs
* exploring and abstracting hip hop dance
* uses a movement company motifs from a wide range of hip hop and street dance styles
* experiments with the use of space, facing, speeds and choice of musical accompaniment

**Working with musical accompaniment**

* drawing attention to the subtle, less obvious sounds in a piece of music that the audience won't hear when they first listen
* a technique involving visual representations of sound

**Formations and Pathways**

* interesting in making interesting pathways so that dancers can transition in unusual and effective ways
* the rubik's cube
* using a spiralling circular pattern in order to transition

**Stimulus for Emancipation of Expressionism**

* features urban percussive elements and classical string instrumentation
* the idea of emanipating expressionism was another starting point for the work
* the importance of being free to express ourselves both as individuals and through the use of hip hop and street dance movement

**Styles of dance**

* Popping
  + contracting and relaxing various muscles of the body while creating angles and levels
* locking
  + accurate points, wrist rolls and some synchronised steps
* waacking
  + failing arms and vogues
  + uses are to hit every beat
* breaking
  + also called break dancing
  + originated from funk, soul and hip hop
  + does flips, head spins and moving to the beat
* krumping
  + free, energetic moves, expressive using arms and chest
* hip hop
  + broad term
  + refers to a large collection of social dances

**Key movement features:**

* action
  + use of movement vocabulary
  + use of bbe signiture movement and motif
  + use of isolations
  + unpinning of the groove, low centre of gravity and bounce and rock through the torso and lower body
  + travelling motifs
  + use of actions in a stranding posture
* space and formation
  + movement hat faces down stage
  + horizontal pathway created
  + use of symmetry in special formation
* dynamics
  + strong sharp and direct arm gestures
  + strong, flowing and fluid movement
  + aggressive, quick phrases of movement
  + pulsing movement that articulate through chest and torso
  + slow sustained phrases of movement performed by a group of the ensemble that is juxtaposed by sharp, strong and direct movement
* choreographic devices and relationships between dancers
  + use of foreground and background
  + frequent use of unison and canon
  + sound surfing
  + repetition
  + motif development
* **Glossary**

Ninja walk

* running on the spot as fast as you can
* arms driving in opposition on the standard beats in each musical bar
* body maintains a low centre of gravity throughout

Ninja static

* arms like ninja walk
* legs are static in a wide open stance and body changes direction
* centre of gravity is slightly higher

Ninja glide

* arms the same as ninja walk
* travels forward -> legs glide or slide

Chariots of fire

* reference to 1981 British film
* legs and arms move on standard beat of each musical bar
* legs run in a wide stance
* hands in clenched fist position and move from low left diagonal, low right diagonal, high level left diagonal and high level right diagonal

Mic Check

* from the quote from the song called "knock yourself out" by Jadakiss
* uses to profile and present the body
* strobing makes the movement looks as if it is under a strobe light meaning there is an illusion of the movement being detached very sharp is created

B-points

* combination sequence using 8 areas of the body
* used as points that the dancers touch individually with their hands to create different patterns and sequences

Game over Original

* comes from the song "game over" by Tinchy Stryder
* a series of gestures of wanting someone out of your personal dace

Game over doubles

* variation of above with repetition of each gesture

Game over string

* variation of above that is performed to the rhythmic pater of the string instruments in the piece

String

* slower, sustained phrase of movement using arm gestures and fluid movement through the shoulders, head and torso
* performed to a string melody in the music
* **Table analysis**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sections** | **Structure** | **Inspirations** | **Elements of dance (B.E.S.T)** | **Choreographic devices** | **Design Elements** |
| Genesis | * + dancer start on the floor sitting     - represents the start of life and the feeling starting to grow from the womb of expressionism   + sense of electrical current   + explores the idea of struggling to be free, finding individual expression conformity an order | * + Solo dancer appears to be in control   + the rest of the assemble appears to be powerless   + ninja walk motif   + dancers have their own individual performance identity even though they're presented as a unit   + inspired by the mechanics of a rubik's cube   + adding contrast to their movements | Body   * carrying one of the female dances in a cradle hold on his arms supporting her under the knees and around the back and gradually lowers her to the floor * rolls and poses * quickly rise from the floor to standing position * arm gestured and body positions * low body positions with bent knees and a relaxed torso * arms being in a strong muscle man position with clenched fist and crossing the arms and opening whilst twisting the torso facing downstage * neutral standing position and all look towards stage right   Energy   * sharp stops * strong, direct arm gestures * in slow motion   Space   * circular * "v" formation * downstage, stage left, downstage, stage right, upstage, stage left and downstage * direction and facing the body correspond to the position of the solo freestyler * square shaped formation * two lines   Time   * unison | * + ninja walk motif   + krumping   + locking   + waacking   + stomp   + contrast   + swerve motif in unison   + BBE signature motid | Sound:   * powerful, rhythmic beat drum -> repeated with pauses and electronic sound effects * sections where sounds like fizzing sparks of electricity or scratching * quick kick drum sounds followed by snare drum   Lighting:   * cool blue lighting in form of several spotlights beginning * all lights move to centre at 00:45   + creates a deep blue lighting   + makes dancers appear shiny * used to draw attention towards specific dancers |
| Growth and Struggle | * + starts off with an individual dancer's expression contrast on overs from stage right   + appears to be aggressive     - struggle for the recognition of individual passion and expression   + ends in rugby scrum inspired formation | * + highlight physical struggle demonstrated by the pushing and pulling movements   + 'dwele' style   + rugby scrum -> low stand and holding each other   + deep bass to sound like a heartbeat and add tension | Body   * head and torso pulling back to look like he's off balance * bending knees and flexed hands * pulling gestures   Energy   * quick and direction and go back to slow motion afterwards * strong direct * movement are strong and directing, using large gestures with the fist and arms, and isolation with the chest * solo dancer is faster and more vigorous   Space   * stage right * on the left and right edge move in an outwards direction to stage left and right * tight huddle in the centre stage * rotate ninety degrees to face stage right by running whilst maintaining the upper body position   Time   * unison | * + strong krumping movement   + dynamic between sharp and fast gestures   + repetitive echoes seen in music and heard in the music   + cumulative cannon   + unison   + repetition of the Dwele style   + repetition of four direct arm gestures above head   + cumulative cannon from back to front   + rugby scrum in unison   + krump inspired movement such as stomps and jabs   + repeat the cumalative cannon -> flurry cannon | Sound:   * powerful repetitive drumbeats support a melody in the opening of this section * features vocals with lyrics such "I think you're the one"-> one as an echo effect   + used to compliment movement called "Dwele" * long electronic melodic sounds are held through out   + creates a mysterious, tense atmosphere * second section has a syncopated drum pattern continues as a supporting layer, so that a cross-rhythm is created where two parts exist simultaneously   Lighting:   * bright white neutral lighting and smoke emerge -> creating a pathway of light |
| The connection and flow between People | * + a duet to a full ensemble   + aspects of memory, manipulation, flow, merge and play between individuals in a relationship   + energy flows through the dancers sometimes by an individual and in unison | * + as a sign that he is going to be waving     - the waving technique       * makes it look like the body has no joint       * like electricity       * ball of energy flowing through their bodies   + controls different members     - like a musical conductor | Body   * rippling through fingers * passes towards female dancers * movement travels through the joints of the fingers, through the wrist, elbow, shoulder, chest, stomach hips, knees and feet. * face constantly on the direction and flow of energy   Energy   * smooth * contains fluidity   Space   * anti-clockwise low level 360 degree turn   + circle gesture * two lines in the centre position upstage * circle formation * v shape in 2 lines   Time | * + waving technique   + repetition of throwing back energy towards each other   + b-point phrase in unison   + contrast     - Kenny walking     - ensemble performing sharp precise   + mic check phrase unison   + looking up a t | Sound:   * a modern classical composition that features fast melodic phrases on violin * melodies are at a quick tempo and continuous, cascading up and down in pitch * builds including a supporting string orchestra * calming, enchanting atmosphere and a smooth texture with long drawn out, supporting harmonies on the lower string played by instruments such as the Cello   Lighting:   * darkness fills the stage * until small patch of light emerges from the downstage left wing * blue light fills the stage * there is a blackout at the end |
| Empowerment | * + energy is captured and released   + released of individual energy continues to contrast with the powerful order of group unison   + showcases the individual skills and expression of the core dancers   + the incessant quality as the section builds a crescendo   + finishes with dancers huddling together in a huddle together | * + director/conductor | Body   * twisting balances, poses and lifts * neutral standing position * arm and head gestures that causes reactions * rumbles through body and legs   Energy   * series of energetic movement * bounce * suspended movement   + arms slowly falling down to the side of the body * quick and sharp   + popping solo   Space   * new formation with lines with Kenrick on the floor * semi-circular formation * symmetrical formations of 3 lines * in a pyramid in the centre stage * full circle   Time   * slow motion   + whole ensemble face towards | * + game over strings phrase motif     - repetition   + ninja walk motif   + repetition of gesture, body language an facial expression of being pained   + unison     - head roll   + cannon of contact work   + string phrase motif   + contrasting     - perform slower movement     - popping solo that is sharp and quick   + chariots of fire motif   + repetitive | Sound:   * features urban percussive elements and classical string instrumentation * complex syncopated drum rhythms and melodies that repeat and develop throughout * melody on string are repeated several times in a row * drums are explosive which includes very fast rhythmic patterns * different drums are used to make sounds similar to a spray can when the button is pressed * includes drums, full string orchestra and piano   Lighting:   * vertical panel of blue starts down stage in the centre and travel towards upstage centre * backdrop is lit with purple tones * dancers lit by blue, cool tones in order to continue with the blue theme * appears lit and we see the detail in their movement * blackout at the end |