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BALLET

BASICS

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What is Ballet?









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Ballet is an art form created by the movement of the human body.

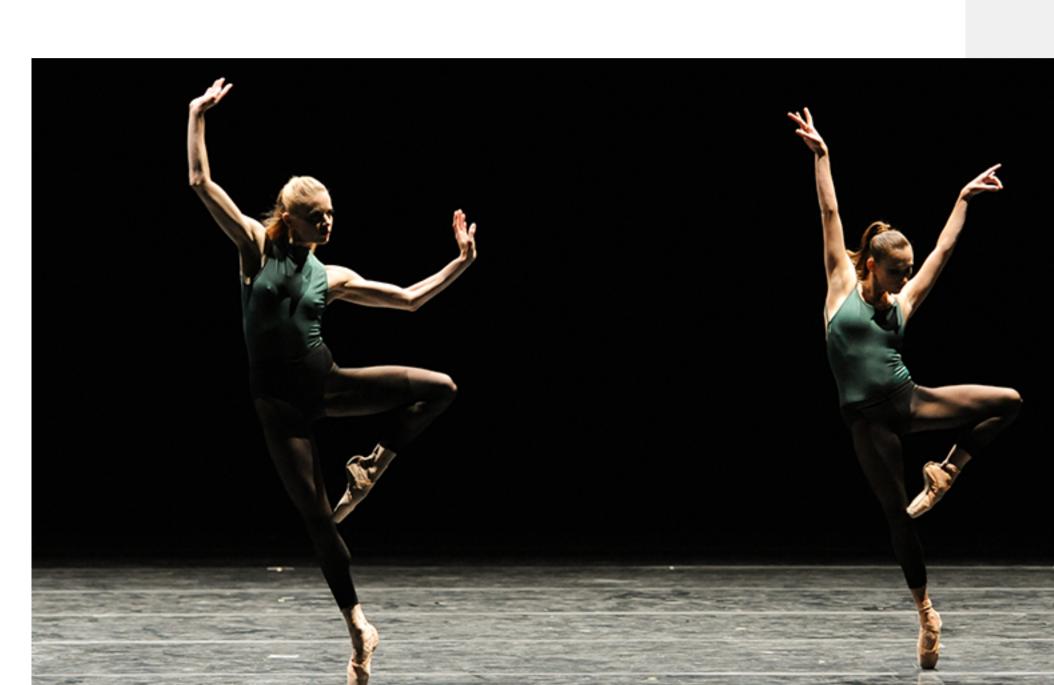
It is theatrical - performed on a stage to an audience utilizing costumes, scenic design and lighting. It can tell a story or express a thought, concept or emotion. Ballet dance can be magical, exciting, provoking or disturbing.

Types of Ballet



PBT's The Sleeping Beauty. Photo by Rich Sofranko

Story ballets (not surprisingly!) tell a story. They contain narrative action, characters, a beginning and an end. <u>The Nutcracker</u> and <u>The Sleeping Beauty</u> are famous story ballets from the 19th century; classic stories and novels such as *The Great Gatsby* and *The Three* <u>Musketeers</u> also have been transformed into ballets.



William Forsythe's In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated. Photo by Rich Sofranko

elements to interpret music, create an image or express or provoke emotion. Choreographer George Balanchine was a prolific creator of plotless ballets.

Plotless ballets have no storyline. Instead they use the movement of the body and theatrical

Styles of Ballet



Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The following elements characterize this style: graceful, flowing movements classical form: turn-out of the legs and pointe work

- balance and symmetry ethereal quality
- emphasis on story ballets and narrative elaborate sets and costumes



increased speed, energy and attack manipulation of the classical form

asymmetry, an off-balance feel

non-narrative, often one-act ballets

pared-down aesthetic with simple sets and costumes

Contemporary ballet is influenced by modern dance. Renowned contemporary ballet choreographers include Twyla Tharp, Jiří Kylián, Paul Taylor, William Forsythe and Dwight Rhoden. In contemporary ballet, you may see:

turn-*in* of the legs greater range of movement and body line

floor work

PBT in Jiří Kylián's Petite Mort. Photo by Rich Sofranko

- **LEARN MORE!**
- Experience ballet for yourself with <u>classes for all ages</u>, including adult beginning ballet classes. Or, introduce your little ones to ballet with <u>Dance the Story at Home!</u>

pointe shoes but also bare feet

A Brief History of Ballet **The Point of Pointe Shoes**

Ballet Vocabulary

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