Congo Square: Evidence and Embodiment | Student Dance Brief

6–8 | Louisiana Dance & Movement Lab | source evaluation and gesture invention | 2–4 sessions of 35–60 minutes

Your movement challenge

Compare two historical sources; devise contemporary movement about memory and explicitly identify what cannot be reconstructed

What to investigate

Historical Congo Square and limits of reconstructing undocumented movement

Technical focus

source evaluation and gesture invention

Before you dance

01. Name one movement you observe in a credited source and one thing you do not yet know.
02. Show a safe four-count baseline phrase.
03. Experiment with three different movement qualities or spatial directions.

Create and improve

01. Plan a short original sequence with a beginning, a change, and an ending.
02. Apply source evaluation and gesture invention and rehearse the movement challenge.
03. Request one observation and one question from a peer, then make one significant change.

Turn in

Movement score or sketch; three trials; final performance/filmed excerpt/accessible notation; source credit; annotated revision; reflection.

Reflect

01. How did source evaluation and gesture invention improve from beginning to end?
02. Who is credited for the tradition?
03. Which movement is your own invention?
04. How did you make choices safe and inclusive?

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