

## Episode 17: A Midsummer Night's Dream

### Clip: Staged Fighting

#### Activity: Choreographing a Fight

#### Theme: Dance Skills

#### Elements of dance: body, space, relationships

1. As a class, view the clip, *Staged Fighting*, where there are fights within fights: Kat and Tara's disagreements come to a head while Sammy and Abigail fight about revealing their relationship, all within the staged fight choreography of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also, examine the choreographed or 'staged' fighting scene performed by the boys and girls for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
2. Ask the class the following questions: Do the students really fight? Why or why not? How do they make the movements appear as if they were really fighting? List the student responses on the kinds of actions and qualities used on a board or IWB.
3. Have the class perform a warm-up prior to attempting the following activity. Divide the class into groups of four. If it is mixed gender groups, try to sort groups into two boys and two girls. Have students choreograph their own dance fight scene of 20–60 seconds. The scene should:
  - avoid any physical contact
  - begin with a freeze-frame which sets up the scene
  - include at least four major fight actions
  - contain 3-6 different dance moves (gesture, turns, jumps, falls, balances, travelling movement, stillness)
  - end with a freeze-frame
4. Walk around the room and provide coaching for each group. Movement ideas can come from movies, martial arts, or the students' imaginations. Watch for potentially risky movements or students performing movements too closely to each other.
5. Have each group perform their dance 'fight scene' for the class. Select a variety of sound scores to add an emotive layer to the action.

6. Ask students to document their dance on **Student Activity Sheet E17.5: Choreographing a Fight**. Students should rate:
- their own creative input
  - their performance
  - how it was received by the rest of the class
  - what they could do to improve the choreography and performance

### Download

- Student Activity Sheet E17.5: Choreographing a Fight

### Useful resources

- Ausdance Video Segment 4 - Safe Warm Up, Basic Contemporary Dance.
- Ausdance Video Segment 11 -Basic Mirror Activities.
- Ausdance Video Segment 10 -Trust Activities for Partner Work.
- [Ausdance Factsheet 16: Caring for the dancer's body](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 7: Safe dance floors](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 13: Safe spaces for dance](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 11: Producing a dance performance](#)
- [Dance Academy \(first year\) website](#): (Click on backstage, select the "behind the scenes" clapper board and watch the first clip: Sammy and Christian in rehearsal, blocking moves for a fight/dance.)
- Suggested Music, Han Zimmer movie scores from *The Island*, *Mission Impossible*, *Spy Kids*.



NAME: .....

Student Activity Sheet:  
Activity:

E17.5  
Choreographing  
a Fight

Episode 17:  
Clip:

A Midsummer  
Night's Dream  
Staged Fighting

## Choreographing a Fight

In the space below, create a way to document the moves from your fight scene.

Be sure to document aspects of your fight scene including the direction you travelled, the counts, and the motivation/feeling behind the movements

---

Draw or write comments:

---

Rate your creative input to the fight scene on a scale of 1 to 10:



Episode 17: A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Clip: Staged Fighting

State why you gave yourself this score...


How do you think the rest of the class liked your performance? State the responses from the audience that gave you this impression:


What could you have done to improve your performance?
