

Clip: Contemporary Dance Episode 11: One Perfect Day

Activity: Contemporary Dance Companies

Theme: Dance Knowledge

There are many contemporary dance companies in Australia. Very few dance companies are permanently funded and many dance companies work on a project by project basis, working full time at a full pay capacity, only when there are funds available to do so.

Ask students to research the names of their national, state and local contemporary dance companies: Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Many independent contemporary artists work across these project companies. For instance, in Melbourne, *Chunky Move* dancers may work on independent projects or with other project companies such as *Lucy Geurin Inc.* or *Ballet Lab*.

As a class, investigate the [list of Australian Dance Companies](http://www.ausdance.org.au) on the www.ausdance.org.au website. Evaluate whether they are contemporary companies, ballet companies or cultural dance organisations. Ask students: What are the signs that alert you to the differences? In which Australian state or territory are they based?

1. Play Aussie Dance Map: With students, create two sets of A5 cards in different colours: red and blue. Each card has the name of a Dance company on the front, and its style and the state/local area on the back. Divide the class into two teams. Place three cards on the floor, that indicate the three different styles of dance identified: Ballet, Contemporary or Cultural. Each team lines up and the person in the front is given the cards. They must try to remember what style of dance the company mainly performs in and place their card under the heading for the appropriate style. Give the teams one minute. Once the time is out, check the answers. The team with the most correct answers wins. You can do the same game with different floor cards, showing the Australian states and territories.
2. Students can consolidate learning by completing their **Student Activity Sheet E11.2: Aussie Dance Map**.

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3. Extension activities could include searching for particular styles of dance not well represented in this activity, in particular, Hip Hop, and cultural dance groups. Students could research major dance crews in Australia and in particular those representing their own state. If in their state, they might like to indicate the city, suburb or neighborhood the groups are based in. They should also include Indigenous and non-Indigenous contemporary dance groups across Australia.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E11.3 Aussie Dance Map

Useful resources

- [Ausdance National website – List of Australian Dance Companies](#)
- [Australia.gov.au/About Australia/Contemporary Dance in Australia](#)
- [Contemporary, Sydney Dance Company, video](#)
- [Wise Geek, What is contemporary dance?](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet:	E11.2	Episode 11:	One Perfect Day
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Aussie Dance Map

Cut out the map of Australia on the following page and glue it in your dance book. Then, cut out the company names below and place them on the map of Australia within the State or Territory to which they belong:

The Australian Ballet

Australian Dance Theatre

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Buzz Dance Theatre

Chunky Move

Dance North

Expressions Dance Company

Force Majeure

Leigh Warren and Dancers

The Queensland Ballet

Restless Dance Company

Sydney Dance Company

Tasdance

Tracks Dance

West Australian Ballet

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