

Episode 26: Learning to Fly, Part 2

Clip: The Ballets Russes

Activity: Makeup

Theme: Dance Knowledge, Production

1. As a class, view the clip, *The Ballets Russes*, where Tara chooses a dress worn by one of the Ballets Russes dancers. Performing in a theatre requires makeup that accentuates a dancer's features. Audiences in the circle and dress circle would have little chance of making out a dancer's eyes and mouth without makeup. Ballet makeup usually consists of darkened eyebrows, defined lips and deeper lip colour, eyeliner that extends the line of the eye, false eyelashes for women and shades of brown and red to define the contours of the nose, chin and cheekbones. The general rule is: the bigger the theatre, the further away the audience, the more need there is for stage makeup and contouring.
2. As a class, examine the image [Lucette Aldous as Kitri in Rudolf Nureyev's "Don Quixote" The Australian Ballet, 1970](#) and discuss her makeup. Ask the students to observe and consider:
 - a. What colours are being used? Why?
 - b. Does the makeup compliment the character (Kitri from Don Quixote)?

Now, observe the images, [Keith Bain as Physician in The Imaginary Invalid, Bodenwieser Dance Company, 1951](#) and [Ray Powell as Bootface in The Lady and the Fool](#) and have students respond to the questions:

- c. Who are the characters the dancers represent?
 - d. How have they applied their makeup? Why?
3. Ask students to think of a character from a storybook they have read or a character from their own imagination. They are to imagine that this character is in a ballet or contemporary dance performance on a very large stage, watched by an audience seated in a very large auditorium. Have students design the costume and makeup for their character. Students should use **Student Activity Sheet E26.3: Makeup** to draft their ideas.

4. Display the design ideas in the classroom. Have students select certain characters that could be in a similar story. Divide the class into four groups according to the similarities of their designs. Collectively, the group should develop a story that includes all of the characters in their group. This is the beginning of the group's dance performance.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E26.3: Makeup

Useful resources

- NLA Image: [Lucette Aldous as Kitri in Rudolf Nureyev's "Don Quixote" The Australian Ballet, 1970](#)
- NLA Image: [Keith Bain as Physician in *The Imaginary Invalid*, Bodenwieser Dance Company, 1951](#)
- NLA Image: [Ray Powell as Bootface in *The Lady and the Fool*](#)
- Video Clip: [Australian Ballet Video – Behind Ballet Painting](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet:
Activity:

E26.3
Makeup

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Learning to Fly, Part 2.
The Ballets Russes

Makeup

Pick a character from a ballet or similar story that you would like to develop the makeup for and write their name here:

Using the face outline below, design appropriate makeup for the character listed above. Make the makeup design distinctive and while you're designing, keep in mind that it must be able to be seen from the back of a very large auditorium. Use colours and be very big, bold and creative!

