

Clip: Choreographing Dance

Episode 7: Crush Test Dummies

Activity: Space – Body Shape

Theme: Dance Skills

Elements of dance: body, space, time, dynamics, relationships

1. As a class, watch the clip, *Choreographing Dance*. This clip is taken from a segment in the episode that occurs at the end of this episode where Ethan creates a dance that adapts different dance styles and music, for example, Classical, Hip Hop and Spanish. The way he creates the dance is more than just placing one step after another. He uses choreographic elements to manipulate the content and form of the dance. In this lesson students will examine and explore SPACE as an element of dance.
2. Discuss with the class what the meaning of 'space' in dance is. Also, discuss the elements that should be considered within the definition of 'space': body shape, spatial design, the position of dancer/s in the room, the pathways (in the air, on the floor, through the room) the dancer/s take during the dance and spatial organisation (use of direction, level, focus and dimension)
3. Re-view the clip and freeze the frame at certain points to capture different body shapes made by the dancers. Ask students to describe what they see and the type of shapes that are being made. Ask them to consider the positive and negative shapes. Have students draw the shape and shade in the negative space. Use **Student Activity Sheet E7.4: Space - Body Shape** to complete this activity. Place stars (1-3 stars) beside the shapes they thought were most interesting to them. Discuss why they made their selections.
4. Ask the students to find a space where they can move freely. Call out the following body shape words (in fairly rapid succession) and ask students to respond immediately, making a frozen shape and holding it till the next call, without thinking too much about it. There is no right or wrong shape, it is individual interpretation:
Round, long, thin, wide, small, high, low, flat, angular, curved, taut, invisible, enormous, monstrous, impossible, ridiculous, sensible, strong, plain, squashed, concertinaed, tessellated, minute, broken.

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- Student Activity Sheet E7.4: Space - Body Shape

Useful resources

- [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](#)
- [NSW Department of Education and Training - Elements of dance : space](#)
- [YouTube, Step on the Beat - Shape Maker/Shape Explorer - Exploring Positive and Negative Space](#)
- [The Age, *An ideal emerges from the chaos*, Philippa Hawker \(October 4, 2011\)](#)
- [About.com, Negative Space Drawing - How to Use Negative Space](#)
- [Negative space in Dance \(2008\)](#)

NAME:

Student Activity Sheet: E7.4 Episode 7: Crush Test Dummies
Activity: Space - Clip: Choreographing Dance
 Body
 Shape

Space - Body Shape

Choose five of the words that your teacher read to you earlier, from the list below:

Round, long, thin, wide, small, high, low, flat, angular, curved, taut, invisible, enormous, monstrous, impossible, ridiculous, sensible, strong, plain, squashed, concertinaed, tessellated, minute, broken

In the table on the following page:

1. Start with writing each word you selected.
2. Then draw a picture of what you did in response to the word.
3. Then give yourself a rating out of three stars by colouring the stars in.
4. Finally, give your reasons for that rating in the last column.

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Word	Picture of What You Did	Rating	Reason for Rating
			
			
			
			
			