Activity: Turning Snapshots

Theme: Dance Skills

Elements of dance: body, dynamics

1. As a class, view the clip, Turning, showing a range of turns that dancers can perform. The turns are in multiples, quick, tidy and without falling over or getting dizzy. In dance, students need to know how to turn correctly and safely. Learning the rudiments of turning is the easy part. Practicing them until they are understood both intellectually and physically takes more persistence and patience.

2. Ask students to watch the Fit for a Feast: Tutorial on dance turns and discuss the turns demonstrated in the video.

3. Provide students with a range of magazines such as Dancetrain, DanceInforma, Dance Australia or Kinesis, newspapers or images from books to create a collage of different dance turns. Search the internet for ‘Contemporary dance images’. Ask students to label each image as to the type of turn being portrayed.

4. Each student should select 4-5 different turns to practice and perform themselves.

5. Using a digital camera they could work in small groups and take photographs of each other performing the turns. To do this the students would need clear guidance, a good floor (refer Ausdance factsheet: Safe dance floors), and a range of different turns to be effective. If you have students who have experience in a range of dance styles it could be a good option to use them as models.

6. Students should:
   a. Include at least four to five labeled images of different turns, and one to two images of themselves performing the turns
   b. Write or paste words that describe the feeling of turning
   c. Create an interesting and engaging montage

7. Ask students to refer to and complete Student Activity Sheet E12.1: Collage of Turns.
Download
Student Activity Sheet E12.1: Collage of Turns

Useful resources

- Ausdance Factsheet 7, Safe dance floors
- Ausdance Factsheet 13, Safe spaces for dance
- Ausdance Factsheet 14, First aid for dancers
- Ausdance Factsheet 18, Occupational health and safety for the dance industry
- Ausdance Factsheet 12, Healthy bones for female dancers
- Fit for a Feast: Tutorial on dance turns
- Dance Australia website
- Dance Informa Magazine
- Dance Train Magazine
- Kinesis Magazine
- Internet image search for contemporary dance
Collage of Turns

Using the space below and your creativity, create a collage of at least six turns used in dance. Include some describing words for each turn.