

## VCE Dance

### Class 2 7/02/2013

Need: whiteboard markers  
Laptop  
HDMI Cord

## Theory.

Cultural Influences.

What are cultural influences? What is culture? Discuss.

Wikipedia offers this definition:

**Culture** ([Latin](#): *cultura*, lit. "cultivation")<sup>[1]</sup> is a modern concept based on a term first used in [classical antiquity](#) by the Roman [orator](#), [Cicero](#): "*cultura animi*". The term "culture" appeared first in its current sense in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, to connote a process of [cultivation](#) or improvement, as in [agriculture](#) or [horticulture](#). In the 19th century, the term developed to refer first to the betterment or refinement of the individual, especially through [education](#), and then to the fulfillment of [national aspirations or ideals](#). In the mid-19th century, some scientists used the term "culture" to refer to a universal human capacity. For the German [nonpositivist sociologist](#) [Georg Simmel](#), culture referred to "the cultivation of individuals through the agency of external forms which have been [objectified](#) in the course of history".<sup>[2]</sup>

In the 20th century, "culture" emerged as a central concept in [anthropology](#), encompassing the range of human phenomena that cannot be attributed to genetic inheritance. Specifically, the term "culture" in American anthropology had two meanings: (1) the evolved human capacity to classify and represent experiences with [symbols](#), and to act imaginatively and creatively; and (2) the distinct ways that people living in different parts of the world classified and represented their experiences, and acted creatively.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Distinctions are currently made between the physical artifacts created by a [society](#), its so-called [material culture](#) and everything else,<sup>[3]</sup> the intangibles such as language, customs, etc. that are the main referent of the term "culture".

**Which external occurrences or events effect the way we experience life?**

**Who or what influences the music we listen to, how we dress, what we like to watch at the movies?**

**How do we experience the world if we come from poverty or affluence?**

**How does family, tradition, religion or ethnicity influence our choices?**

## My Cultural Influences.

Take a moment to think about you and what you like to do. List some things you like to do, dancing can be obviously on the list, think too about the things you like to do in the following situations:

- on the weekend with friends,
- by yourself,
- with family,

- within the local community; ie church, community centre, youth groups, sports clubs etc.
- What subjects do you enjoy at school?

Now have a think about what might culturally influence these activities; what, outside of your genetic predisposition influences you to like these activities? What are the external influences?

ie)

- Social = family, peer group, facebook, music, podcasts. The greater community as well as the close knit circle of friends and family.
- Ethnicity = Country of origin; traditions, rituals and celebrations from parents or from your own upbringing in a different culture.
- Economic = the influence of money, having it or not having any influences our experiences; ie) many kids that cant afford dance lessons learn from peers outside the dance classroom, thats where breakdance and all its many forms was born. Some people can afford to have private lessons in dance, music and school. What economical influences can you find for yourself?
- Environmental = Urban or rural? What effect do these influences have on what you like to do?
- Religious = Do you have any religious influences?
- Artistic = Have you worked with a fabulous Artist? Choreographer? Musician? How have they influenced you?
- Historical = Have the big global world events of the past influenced the way you do things or what you do in any way? Think about large world events, perhaps Sept 11, the rise of social media, bushfires.

Can you think of any other relevant cultural influences?

Martha Graham and Alvin Ailey. Background info, discussion of what students have found. Distribute handouts. Class reads through and identifies and lists cultural influences they find on each choreographer. Discuss and share.

Unit 1's – Anatomy.

Unit 2's – Discussion on 'Cry'. Watch on laptop.

## **Practical class.**

Practical prep – Time, Space and Energy. Ref. The Modern Dancer.

Pilates Warm Up.

Continue with Favorite Phrase task

Develop with variations in Time, Space and Energy to create developed phrase a1, a2, a3.

