

GCSE Expanded Program Note

Jessica Lovick-Earle
Year 10

Expressions

Style: Lyrical Modern Duration of dance: 1.48 mins

Explanation of Stimulus Idea:

My stimulus is a painting called Composition VIII by Kandinski & I have focused on the shapes and lines to develop ideas and show expressions.

Title & Composer of Accompaniment: Who I Am – By Beverley Knight

Description of Movement Content:

Motifs: My motif was based on these shapes in the corner of the painting. I start with a ronde de jambe à terre into a turning spring step to show one of the circles. Then I perform a series of retirements bringing my arms down slowly – focused on the triangle. I then spiral turn making a spiral gesture with my arms to signify the other circle. I make two strong, isolated movements changing my weight to signify the square, with my arms in parallel lines. I finish my motif with a drag slide to the floor with circular arms to signify the circle.

Choreographic devices: I used the development of my movements to show that I was reaching out and finding my own personality and individuality. To develop my motif I did the ronde de jambe in the air and took the spring step as a jump, raising the levels and elevating as well. I take the retirements turning as a posée turn to vary the triangle movement. The two isolated movements are taken with a leg in the air for a right angle of the square and develop the movement. The drag step is made larger and travels more with more power.

Appraisal of Dance

I started my dance by creating my motif first - focusing on a specific part of the painting. My first motif communicated my main dance idea because I used movements, which signified the abstract shapes that were in my stimulus. To develop my motif, I used changes in direction, level, I also decided to use a change in turn, and in particular I used a spring turn as a variation to the detournè. This is because it changed the dynamics of the dance and complimented the climax in the music. In my dance there is a contrast between the floor work and my travelling sequence, my floor work is slow and graceful, but my travelling sequence is fast and swift. My music also inspired me with the dynamics and gestures I used. I did a lot of reaching arm gestures in my floor work; this was to represent the lyrics and to reach out into the painting to find emotion and personality. I evaluated my dance as it progressed using mirrors, peer assessment and self-assessment, as well as teacher feedback. While evaluating, the movements I feel most proud of is my travelling step, as this reflects my stimulus really well and is the climax in my dance. If I were making my dance again, I would most likely change my second development to decrease the energy level before I finish to make it more subtle and fluid. I hope my dance successfully communicated what I set out to achieve, I wanted my dance to be individual like kandinskys painting.

If there were anything that I felt let my dance down, it would be my music. My teacher and I both agreed that it didn't suit the stimulus and was hard to use to show my point and get my interpretation across. If I could pick a piece of music again I would pick a more percussive, jazzy, funky piece that would show the vibrancy of the colours Kandinski used.

My second motif is the most successful as it shows the audience the shapes I have chosen using my body, it is also successful because they are quite isolated like elements of the painting. I did this because the part of the painting I focused my motif on isn't really linking in any way, they are all separate shapes. My travelling sequence into my flow work is very fluent and with a change of dynamics from fast to slow, and levels from high to low. I did this because the section of the painting I did it on was made of joined up semi-circles in the centre of the painting and I interpreted that to create spirals and leaps descending into floor work. I feel that my dance was successful in representing my stimulus, and the motif and gestures both worked well together to signify the shapes and my own interpretation of the painting.