

BoSoma Dance Company

Presents

The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time

BoSoma Dance Company

Hamilton, MA

www.bosoma.org



Overview: Dance as an Artform

WHAT IS DANCE?

Dance is any type of movement of the body, usually to music and in a given space, for the purpose of expressing an idea or emotion, releasing energy, or simply taking delight in the movement itself. There are countless styles of dance, but below are some of the most common forms in Western culture.

Dance Style Examples:

Ballet: An artistic dance form that uses precise and highly formalized steps and gestures. Classical ballet, which originated in Renaissance Italy and established its present form during the 19th century, is characterized by light, graceful, fluid movements often with the use of pointe shoes. A balance of strength and grace are required to perform ballet technique.

Modern: Often considered to have emerged as a rejection of and rebellion against classical ballet. It is a broad genre of Western concert and theatrical dance, and employs different techniques for developing the use of the entire body in movements that are expressive of abstract ideas.

Jazz: A technique and style that first emerged in the United States in the early twentieth century, and was originally performed to jazz music that was popular at the time. Today, jazz is usually characterized by fast upbeat movements, popular music, and strong emphasis on rhythm and showmanship.

Hip Hop: Refers to street dance styles primarily performed to hip-hop music or that have evolved as part of hip-hop culture. It includes a wide range of styles that is constantly evolving with the times, but originated in the 1970s. It is a very rhythmic and music based style.

Contemporary: A genre of dance that developed during the mid-twentieth century and has since grown to become one of the most dominant genres. Due to its technical similarities, it is often perceived to be closely related to modern dance, ballet, and other classical concert dance styles. It is an eclectic blend of many different dance styles.

Dance Vocabulary/Terms:

Dance: a performing art form consisting of purposefully selected sequences of human movement.

Choreography: a sequence of steps and movements performed by dancers throughout a given space.

Choreographer: a person who creates dance compositions, and plans and arranges sequences of dance steps.

Expression: the process of communicating your thoughts or feelings through movement.

Abstract Expression: conveys attitudes and emotions through nontraditional and usually nonrepresentational means.

Literal Expression: conveys attitudes and emotions through concrete, exact, and representational means, which could include gesture or pantomime.

Theme: a unifying or dominant idea in a movement pattern or sequence from which variations may be developed.

Motif: any recurring element that has symbolic significance and reference to the theme.

Tone: the overall feeling, character, or general attitude of a dance piece.

How Dance is Created

Language Arts Curriculum Connections : Storytelling & Dance

Writing a story and choreographing a dance involve the same process.

- What are important parts of a written story?
 - Clear beginning, middle & end
 - Theme - a unifying or dominant idea in a movement pattern or sequence
 - Motif - a recurring image, idea, or symbol that develops or explains a theme
 - Tone/Mood - Any emotion that humans can feel

Like a written story, a choreographer uses these tools to craft a visual dance.

- Choreographers use music, themes or ideas as inspiration to create a dance.
- Using movement, the choreographer crafts a dance with a beginning, middle and end, meant to tell a story or convey a message.
- Choreographers may develop a motif that appears throughout the dance. This may be a particular movement, position, or even through the use of costumes or props.
- Choreographers develop the tone or mood of the dance in many ways: music choices, lighting choices, timing or quality of dancer's movements, emotional expression from dancers faces.

About The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time

From the flap of a wing contributing to a hurricane halfway across the globe to finding love in the grocery store, the Butterfly Effect is an age-old phenomenon proving that one moment in time can unknowingly have a huge impact on the future. The stories told through BoSoma Dance Company repertoire only encapsulate brief moments in time, but have a much longer lasting influence on those who experience the work.

WHAT IS THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT?

The Butterfly Effect is the idea that small, seemingly unimportant events may unknowingly lead to something with much larger consequences. [Butterfly Effect Video](#).

Who named the Butterfly Effect? American meteorologist and mathematician Edward Lorenz coined the Butterfly Effect in 1963. He was studying the weather and found that his data was skewed due to unexplained circumstances. He discovered that there were very small events that happened somewhere in the world (such as a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil) that eventually disrupted the weather systems so much that he was not able to accurately predict certain meteorological events (such as a tornado that unexpectedly tore through Texas).

Although the 'butterfly' in the Butterfly Effect is a metaphor, the theory that small and seemingly insignificant events eventually lead to events of much larger consequences was proven.

The pieces that BDC will showcase are prime examples of how seemingly disparate actions can intersect to generate the unexpected:

On The Rails is inspired by the compositions of a French electronic music producer William Rezé, also known as Thylacine, who traveled a 5,000-mile train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok in a cramped cabin on the Trans Siberian railway. Rezé blends recorded sounds from the train as well as conversations recorded from each community he met along the way, which when partnered with the choreography and the dancer's performance, creates a riveting piece of work on stage.

Korai, which is inspired by five Greek goddesses/deities Aphrodite, Persephone, Gaia, Hecate and Athena, is an exploration about what would happen if the statues and sculptures of museums and art galleries were no longer still. How would they express themselves? What stories would they have to tell?

Revitalize takes place in a dystopian world ruined by climate change. How long did it take to get to this point? How long will it take to get back to what life used to be? In this community that has lost all hope, it only takes a seemingly insignificant group of individuals to catalyze change. This piece is inspired by the small and mighty who unify to generate strength, accountability and resilience to make life better to live.

Convergence is inspired by Anila Qyayyum Agha's installation *Intersections* that was on display at the Peabody Essex Museum in 2016 while BoSoma performed within the Rodin exhibit, *Transforming Sculpture*. *Intersections* offered people of all cultures a room of reflection through light and beauty. Choreographer, Katherine Hooper, created a story of a group of individuals inhabiting sacred ground as they work together to move forward through resilience, empathy, and a commitment to making collective change.

In the **Butterfly Effect**, the dancers perform graceful adaptation to subtle and unexpected changes in their movements, all while maintaining a sense of fluidity and cohesiveness in their performance. Each movement flows seamlessly into the next, showcasing the dancers' mastery of not only their technique but also their ability to respond dynamically to the ever-changing choreography. The piece highlights the dancers' agility and precision as they navigate through intricate sequences with poise and control, embodying the delicate yet powerful nature of a butterfly in flight. The performance captivates the audience with its nuanced portrayal of how even the slightest adjustments can have a profound impact on the overall composition, leaving a lasting impression long after the show is over.

In this lineup, each piece paints an individual portrait, and when performed alongside each other, they create a collage that takes on a whole new significance. This performance is an analogy to show that the world is deeply interconnected, and even the most minor moments can have infinite effects.

The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time aims to start conversations about how small decisions can affect the universe. Whether it evokes discussions about actions that lead to climate change or the serendipitous creation of art, this program will drive home the significance of how individuals can affect the course of time and emphasize the importance for students to be global citizens to protect themselves, their communities, and other communities around the world.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE:

We recommend that students read through the above summaries to familiarize themselves with the pieces being performed.

DURING/AFTER THE PERFORMANCE:

The following tasks could be done *during* the performance, or *after* as a reflective exercise.

What Dance Is & How It's Created Overview

For each dance:

- Can you identify the **theme**?
- What story do you think the choreographer is trying to tell?
- Did you see a **motif** in the dance?
- What was the **tone/mood** of the dance?

The Butterfly Effect in Performance

Choose three of the five main themes portrayed in *The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time*:

1. **On the Rails**: Traveling to a new place and meeting new people.
2. **Korai**: Statues of Greek goddesses come alive at night to express themselves before they return stone when the sun rises.
3. **Revitalize**: People come together to fight climate change.
4. **Convergence**: People from different walks of life encounter one another.
5. **The Butterfly Effect**: Butterflies come and go through intersecting and diverging patterns.

Use your imagination to decide how the story might continue. What other events could happen? Who would be affected? Write two different outcomes for each chosen example and explain how an aspect of the piece's story affected the result.

Piece #1:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

Piece #2:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

Piece #3:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

Reflecting on The Butterfly Effect in Everyday Life

Think back and choose three actions you have taken in the last week. These actions could be good or bad, large or small. How might your actions affect your personal life as well as the external world in the future? These outcomes could take place tomorrow, in 3 months, or in 5 years. Think big picture!

Action #1:

Consequence -

Action #2:

Consequence -

Action #3:

Consequence -

TEACHER RESOURCES:

BoSoma Dance Company website: www.bosoma.org

BDC Vimeo Page (Videos to Reference): <https://vimeo.com/bosoma>

1. [On the Rails](#)
2. [Korai](#)
3. [Revitalize](#)
4. [Convergence](#)
5. [Butterfly Effect](#)

ABOUT BOSOMA DANCE COMPANY (BDC):

Under the artistic direction of dancer, choreographer, and educator Katherine Hooper, BoSoma is recognized for its daring contemporary programming encompassing both vibrant energetic movement with athletic performance quality. In 20 seasons, BoSoma has premiered over 50 original works by Hooper and performed commissions from outstanding organizations such as City Ballet of Boston, Chorus pro Musica and the Patricia Kenny Dance Collection of New York. As an in-demand collaborator, BoSoma has worked with the Peabody Essex Museum and the Collage Dance Ensemble under the direction of Ahmet Luleci, and has performed in festivals around the globe. In 2015 BoSoma was commissioned to perform their own interpretation of Stravinsky's *Les Noces* at New England Conservatory's legendary Jordan Hall. In 2016, BoSoma was commissioned by the Peabody Essex Museum to accompany the *Rodin: Transforming Sculpture* exhibit where BoSoma dancers performed alongside the exhibit for five hours during the over 100 day exhibit.

Part of the company's mission includes seeking out and implementing community and educational programs in schools throughout the Greater Boston area. For over 15 years, BDC continues its mission to harness the power of dance and physical movement to unlock a passion for greater learning in our schools. In partnership with New England Arts for Literacy Project in 2016-2017, BDC created K-12 programs that support core curricula learning, including the landmark programs, *Stories in Motion* and *Math and Science Matters*. These programs are designed to encourage children to think creatively through movement as a way to inspire their writing and comprehension of literature. Additionally, they explain how choreographers can use numbers and music mathematically to create choreography and movement patterns. Science topics also integrate and teach the importance of knowing human anatomy and gravity, which allows dancers to be able to move through space.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: MOMENTS IN TIME PRE-SHOW LESSON PLAN

<p><u>Instructor:</u> <u>Date:</u> <u>Grade Level:</u> Middle School <u>Subject Area:</u> Dance & Social Sciences</p>	<p><u>Video Clips - Introduction to Dance Styles</u> Modern - https://youtu.be/V7H31cnTICM Hip Hop - https://youtu.be/BJ8kAxbevTE Ballet - https://youtu.be/zV1qLYukTH8 Contemporary - https://youtu.be/-rur31Ra4ms Jazz - https://youtu.be/mxPgplMujzQ</p> <hr/> <p><u>Video Clips - The Butterfly Effect</u> Intro/Overview - https://youtu.be/nvqZCZDq0LE Social Effects - https://youtu.be/jK3Bv9dg2mM</p>
<p>ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)</p>	<p><u>Introduction to Dance Styles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can people recognize and appreciate different types of dance? <hr/> <p><u>The Butterfly Effect</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can dance impact the views, beliefs, and thoughts of the audience? - What is the Butterfly Effect and how does it prove that the world is interconnected? - How can our actions, big or small, affect those around us?
<p>STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...</p>	<p><u>Introduction to Dance Styles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define “dance” and some of its defining characteristics. - Appreciate differences and nuances in different varieties of dance. <hr/> <p><u>The Butterfly Effect</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define “The Butterfly Effect” and its importance in both weather prediction and humanities. - Reflect on how their actions deeply affect the systems, people, and events of the world they live in.
<p>REQUIRED MATERIALS:</p>	<p><u>General Needs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name tags (if needed) - Notebook/paper - Computer with internet access - Projector/alternative method of video playback <hr/> <p><u>Introduction to Dance Styles</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table top easel pad - Markers <hr/> <p><u>The Butterfly Effect</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ample space for all students to walk around with some space between them (time to move desks is accounted for in the lesson plan)
<p>ANTICIPATORY SET (5 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name Game: Standing in a circle, each person will say their name and perform their favorite dance move (it could be anything from a shimmy to a stomp of the foot). The instructor will begin and once they say their name, pronouns, and show their move, the rest of the class will repeat the name and move back in unison. This will repeat for each person around the circle.
<p>DIRECT INSTRUCTION Introduction to Dance Styles (15 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor will split the class up into five equal groups who will work together to write observations on assigned dance styles (i.e. one group will be assigned to Ballet, another to Modern, another to Hip Hop, etc.) - Instructor will show two minutes of each 'Introduction to Dance Styles' video for the class. Students will take notes on their assigned dance genre, but will be able to watch all videos. - Students will then take 5 minutes to work together in their groups and write descriptive words on easel paper for their assigned genre.
<p>GUIDED PRACTICE Introduction to Dance Styles (5 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups will share with the class the descriptive words they came up with for their assigned genre. - Instructor will invite the rest of the class to suggest additional/alternative words to add to the paper.
<p>CONCLUSION Introduction to Dance Styles (5 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor will ask the following discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → What makes each dance genre unique? → Do you have a favorite style? Why are you drawn to it? → How does each dance style make you feel? Do you have an emotional reaction when you watch each clip? (happy, sad, angry, confused, excited, etc.)
<p>DIRECT INSTRUCTION The Butterfly Effect (10 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor will share both videos provided on The Butterfly Effect. - Instructor will call on 3-5 students to share takeaways from the video.

<p>GUIDED PRACTICE The Butterfly Effect (5 min.)</p>	<p><u>The Butterfly Effect Game</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If necessary, move desks and other obstacles to the edges of the room. Students will begin standing spread out in the middle of the room. The instructor will participate in the game as well. - Instructor will ask the students to select two other people in the room, but keep the names of these people a secret. - They will ask the students to start to walk around the room, but as they do this, they must stay equidistant between both of their chosen people. - The instructor will start to move slowly through the room. Students may have chosen you as one of their people and will need to move to accommodate. As they move, others will need to move, and the configuration of the room will keep changing. - The instructor can also stop and start periodically to clarify the effect. - This can go on for a minute or two so the students can start to see that their choices and actions affect the rest of the people in the room.
<p>CONCLUSION The Butterfly Effect (5 min.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor will ask the following discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → What happened when one person started to move? Did it affect the rest of the people in the room? Did one person's actions ripple through the rest of the class? → How might this happen in real life? How might your actions affect those around you, whether you anticipate it or not?
<p>Connecting the Butterfly Effect to Dance Performance (10 min.)</p>	<p><u>Instructor will explain/share the following information to review before going to the performance:</u></p> <p>The Butterfly Effect is the idea that small, seemingly unimportant events may unknowingly lead to something with much larger consequences.</p> <p>Who named the Butterfly Effect? American meteorologist and mathematician Edward Lorenz coined the Butterfly Effect in 1963. He was studying the weather and found that his data was skewed due to unexplained circumstances. He discovered that there were very small events that happened somewhere in the world (such as a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil) that eventually disrupted the weather systems so much that he was not able to accurately predict certain meteorological events</p>

(such as a tornado that unexpectedly tore through Texas).

Although the 'butterfly' in the Butterfly Effect is a metaphor, the theory that small and seemingly insignificant events eventually lead to events of much larger consequences was proven.

The pieces that BoSoma Dance Company will showcase are prime examples of how seemingly disparate actions can intersect to generate the unexpected. Below is an overview of the pieces:

[*The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time Performance Overview*](#)

In this lineup, each piece paints an individual portrait, and when performed alongside each other, they create a collage that takes on a whole new significance. This performance is an analogy to show that the world is deeply interconnected, and even the most minor moments can have infinite effects.

The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time aims to start conversations about how small decisions can affect the universe. Whether it evokes discussions about actions that lead to climate change or the serendipitous creation of art, this program and subsequent lesson plans will drive home the significance of how individuals can affect the course of time and emphasize the importance for students to be global citizens to protect themselves, their communities, and other communities around the world.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: MOMENTS IN TIME POST-SHOW WRITING PROMPTS

Please read the following prompts; then choose **ONE** to respond to it in a thoughtful, reflective way.

1. Choose three of the five main themes portrayed in *The Butterfly Effect: Moments in Time*:

- ❖ **On the Rails:** Traveling to a new place and meeting new people.
- ❖ **Korai:** Statues of Greek goddesses come alive at night to express themselves before they return stone when the sun rises.
- ❖ **Revitalize:** People come together to fight climate change.
- ❖ **Convergence:** People from different walks of life encounter one another.
- ❖ **The Butterfly Effect:** Butterflies come and go through intersecting and diverging patterns.

Use your imagination to decide how the story might continue. What other events could happen? Who would be affected? Write two different outcomes for each chosen example and explain how an aspect of the piece's story affected the result.

Piece #1:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

Piece #2:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

Piece #3:

Outcome 1 -

Outcome 2 -

2. Think back and choose three actions you have taken in the last week. These actions could be good or bad, large or small. How might your actions affect your personal life as well as the external world in the future? These outcomes could take place tomorrow, in 3 months, or in 5 years. Think big picture!

Action #1:

Consequence -

Action #2:

Consequence -

Action #3:

Consequence -

3. Write a paragraph about how one of the pieces in *The Butterfly In Effect: Moments in Time* impacted your thoughts, beliefs, or emotions. How might you take these discoveries into the world around you? How will you use what you learned to change the world for the better?