

ARTISTIC IDEA

”Addition – Jazz dance put on bread to make a score”

Background

Through my great interest in choreography, I have allways wanted to bring jazz dance in a more performative context where there for me is about an approach to jazz dance fundations as a starting point and my artistic process will determite a public performance. Through my previous education I have studied jazz dance theory and practice for three years, making my methods during the work becomes founded and with good substance. The work is a futher developement inspired by a previous exploration which I started in the autumn 2014 by a diploma thesis callled "Addition - Dance put on bread to make a score".

Purpose

The aim is to explore the concept of choreography, function of the body and its movement in performance scores where jazz dance are the main focus. The work examines how various layers of choreographic approach can be combined in the creation of a score, where different perspectives are retrieved from the tradition and history of authentic jazz dance.

Method

I will start with analysis of the movie clip from 1951 "Happy ending" by Jack Cole, a significant person in jazz dance history and tradition and try to find out wich varios layers in Jack Coles ”Happy ending” that becomes prominent. Then I put the analysis in a wider physical and bodily exploration with improvisation in focus.

An other part in this work will be practicing modern jazz dance through daily training for the modern jazz dancer Max Stone, who will figure in Stockholm this summer.

To gain a deeper understanding of the subject, I will read texts linked to the 1950’s community structure linked to the dance expression as a layer to the performance score.

To compile my discoveries I will notify a few selected choreographic methods from a more performative relation to what choreography can be where improvisation will be in focus.

Issues

The work concerns two issues:

- How can one create a score, with inspiration from a conventional understanding of what jazz dance can be, through a broader approach in the notion of choreography and the artistic process?
- How can the basic building blocks from the authentic jazz dance that become prominent during my artistic process be used in a public performance?

The score

The results will be presented in a solo -score based on my discoveries made during the artistic process and a performance model for how abstract jazz dance can be presented in a broader approach of the choreography concept. If the audience experiencing it as jazz dance, will be up to them.

Documentation

The artistic process and discoveries will continuously be presented on a blogg with text, videos, selfinterviews and photos so that the public can take part of the artistic process from idea to product.

References

”Happy ending” from 1951 by Jack Cole:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ILRuLnBo4Q>

”Addition – Dance put on bread to make a score” essay in choreography by Isabell Johansson (download as PDF)

<http://www.isabelljohansson.com/blog/?p=176>