

Falling Angels Study Guide Dance

Falling Angels Anticipation Guide		
Part I Directions: Before beginning <i>Falling Angels</i> , in the "Before" column, respond to each statement by putting a plus sign (+) if you agree, a minus sign (-) if you disagree, and a question mark (?) if you are unsure of your belief.		
Part II Directions: After reading the novel, respond again to the statements in the "After" column. Be prepared for classroom discussion to share and defend your responses.		
Before Reading		After Reading
_____	1. The military draft should be reestablished in order to allow America to achieve its military goals.	_____
_____	2. The United States of America has a responsibility to use military force against other nations if we disagree with the form of government that rules that nation.	_____
_____	3. The concept of a just war is always very clear for everyone to agree upon.	_____
_____	4. America should be able to do what it wants militarily, even if a clear majority of our allies disagree with our intentions.	_____
_____	5. Our president should always be supported in times of war.	_____
_____	6. America: love it or leave it.	_____
_____	7. Soldiers should always follow the orders of their commanders, even if they believe their actions are immoral.	_____
_____	8. The military is a good way for teenagers to find out what they want to do in life, especially if they do not intend to go to college right after high school.	_____
_____	9. A politician who lies about the reasons of going to war with another nation should be removed from office.	_____
_____	10. If politicians' sons and daughters had to go to wars they supported, there would be fewer wars in flight.	_____

Falling Angels Study Guide Dance is an essential resource for anyone interested in exploring the intricate relationship between movement and emotion in the realm of contemporary dance. Created by renowned choreographer Wayne McGregor, "Falling Angels" is a powerful piece that encapsulates the themes of loss, connection, and the human experience. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the piece, its background, thematic elements, and insights into the choreography. Whether you are a dancer, a student, or simply a dance enthusiast, this study guide will help deepen your understanding and appreciation of "Falling Angels."

Understanding "Falling Angels"

The Background of the Choreography

"Falling Angels" was first premiered in 1989 by the acclaimed British dance company, Random Dance. Wayne McGregor, known for his innovative approaches to contemporary dance, created this piece as a response to the complex emotions surrounding the idea of falling—both physically and metaphorically. The choreography combines athleticism with an exploration of the human psyche, inviting viewers to reflect on the themes of vulnerability and resilience.

The Music and Its Influence

The score for "Falling Angels" is composed by Steve Reich, a pioneer of minimalist music. The rhythmic structures and repetitive motifs in Reich's music mirror the physicality of the dancers, creating a dynamic interplay between sound and movement. Understanding the relationship

between the choreography and the music is crucial for a deeper appreciation of the piece.

- Key elements of the score:
- Utilizes repetitive patterns that evoke a sense of urgency.
- Incorporates percussive sounds that complement the dancers' movements.
- Creates an atmosphere that enhances the emotional depth of the performance.

Choreographic Techniques

Movement Vocabulary

Wayne McGregor's choreography in "Falling Angels" is characterized by a unique movement vocabulary that blends contemporary techniques with classical influences. The dancers execute a series of intricate movements that embody both grace and power.

- Key movement features:
- Use of sharp, angular lines to convey tension.
- Fluid transitions that reflect the theme of falling.
- Incorporation of floor work that emphasizes the connection to the ground.

Spatial Awareness and Group Dynamics

The formation and positioning of dancers play a significant role in "Falling Angels." McGregor often uses the space to create visual patterns that evoke emotional responses from the audience. The interactions between dancers highlight themes of connection and isolation.

- Spatial elements include:
- Group formations that shift and change, representing the unpredictability of life.
- Solo moments that emphasize individual struggles within a collective experience.
- Use of levels (high, mid, low) to create visual interest and depth.

Thematic Exploration

The Concept of Falling

At its core, "Falling Angels" grapples with the concept of falling—both in a literal and metaphorical sense. The dancers' movements often reflect the sensation of losing control, mirroring the emotional weight of life's challenges.

- Themes associated with falling:
- Vulnerability: The willingness to expose oneself to emotional risk.
- Resilience: The strength to rise after experiencing a fall.
- Connection: The bonds we form with others during times of difficulty.

Emotional Resonance

The emotional depth of "Falling Angels" is palpable throughout the performance. The choreography invites the audience to engage with the dancers' experiences, prompting reflections on their own lives.

- Emotional layers to consider:
- Joy and despair: The juxtaposition of uplifting movements with moments of tension.
- Isolation and community: How personal struggles can unite or divide individuals.
- Hope and despair: The cyclical nature of the human experience.

Interpreting the Dance

Viewer Engagement

As an audience member, engaging with "Falling Angels" goes beyond mere observation. It invites introspection and personal connection to the themes presented. Consider the following points as you watch the performance:

1. Personal Reflection: How do the themes of vulnerability and resilience resonate with your own experiences?
2. Emotional Response: Pay attention to the emotions that arise during the performance. What movements evoke specific feelings?
3. Interpretation of Movement: Reflect on how the dancers' movements communicate their stories. What do you perceive in their physical expressions?

Discussion and Analysis

After watching "Falling Angels," participating in discussions can enhance your understanding and appreciation of the piece. Here are some discussion prompts to consider:

- How does the music influence your perception of the choreography?
- In what ways do the dancers' interactions reflect the themes of connection and isolation?
- What interpretations can you draw from the concept of falling in both a literal and emotional context?

Conclusion

The **Falling Angels Study Guide Dance** serves as a vital tool for anyone looking to delve into the rich tapestry of Wayne McGregor's choreography. By exploring the background, thematic elements, and choreographic techniques, you can gain a deeper appreciation for this significant work in contemporary dance. The exploration of vulnerability, resilience, and the human experience within "Falling Angels" invites us all to reflect on our own journeys and the connections we forge along the way. Whether you are a dancer, student, or spectator, engaging with this piece promises to be a transformative experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of the 'Falling Angels' dance piece?

The main theme of 'Falling Angels' explores the concepts of mortality, loss, and the struggle against the inevitable, using movement to convey deep emotional narratives.

Who is the choreographer of 'Falling Angels'?

The choreographer of 'Falling Angels' is Pina Bausch, known for her innovative and expressive dance theater.

What stylistic elements define the 'Falling Angels' choreography?

The choreography of 'Falling Angels' is characterized by a blend of modern dance techniques, theatrical elements, and a strong emotional undertone, often incorporating repetitive movements and dynamic shifts.

How does 'Falling Angels' utilize music in its performance?

The performance features a minimalist score that complements the choreography, enhancing the emotional depth and highlighting the dancers' movements.

What is the significance of the title 'Falling Angels'?

The title 'Falling Angels' signifies the juxtaposition of grace and despair, reflecting the beauty and tragedy of human experience.

What role does lighting play in 'Falling Angels'?

Lighting in 'Falling Angels' is used to create mood and atmosphere, emphasizing the dancers' movements and enhancing the emotional intensity of the performance.

How do the dancers convey emotion in 'Falling Angels'?

Dancers convey emotion through expressive body language, facial expressions, and the physicality of their movements, allowing the audience to connect with the themes of the piece.

What is the historical context of 'Falling Angels'?

'Falling Angels' was created in the late 20th century, during a time when contemporary dance was evolving and exploring more abstract themes, reflecting societal issues and personal struggles.

How is 'Falling Angels' received by critics and audiences?

Critics and audiences have generally praised 'Falling Angels' for its emotional depth, innovative choreography, and thought-provoking themes, often considering it a significant work in the modern dance repertoire.

What are the key takeaways from studying 'Falling Angels' for dance students?

Key takeaways include understanding the integration of movement with emotion, the importance of staging and lighting, and the ability to convey complex themes through physical expression.

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