

Inside the Process: Revealing Culture in Choreographic Documentation

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Inside the Process

A new form of dance documentation



Fleeting image of the dancer invested the action
of problem solving

Inside the Process

Process-Based



The choreographers decisions and investigations which ultimately form the dance

Inside the Process

Our goals

- To provide an entry into the work informing a director, notator, historian, and teacher about what was experienced and expressed during the rehearsal processes.
- To provide a link to highlight relationships between the “process” of developing the work and the “product” of the work.

the essence.....

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In this presentation I will share

- Conceptions underlying this project
- Experiences and struggles in developing new tools
- Discoveries in the research & development phases
- Rigors of documenting in the studio, on stage and past the moment

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Typical reconstruction process

- Video of work
- Photos, press clippings
- Read reviews and interviews with the choreographer
- Talk to the coach, dancers, performers
- Read the notation score

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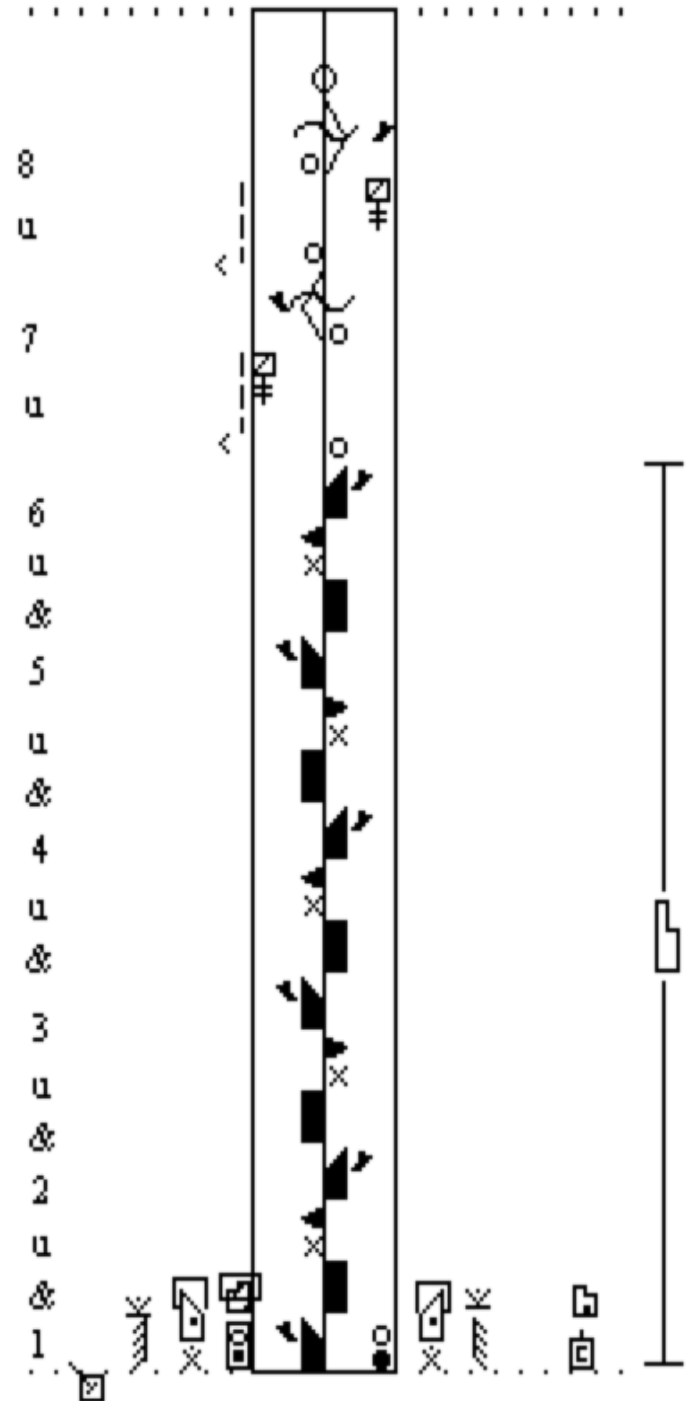
When teaching/learning a dance we wanted to know

- What the work is about
- How it was made
- How the choreographer worked in rehearsal
- How she/he moved
- How the original cast “did it”

Inside the Process

Labanotation

Records how the body moves in space



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*New York Choreographer
Vicky Shick*



- “Exquisitely fluid dancer”
- Whose “very execution of a dance automatically elevates it to a higher distinction”
- Performer with the Trisha Brown
- Received a "Bessie" for performance

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*New York Choreographer
Vicky Shick's*

Brain & Jennifer

Her choreographic process

- Quirky human behaviors
- Blending of seemingly opposite notions
- Deliberate play of extremes
- A physical tableau of political photographic imagery



Brain and Jennifer (2002)

Inside the Process



Brain and Jennifer (2002)

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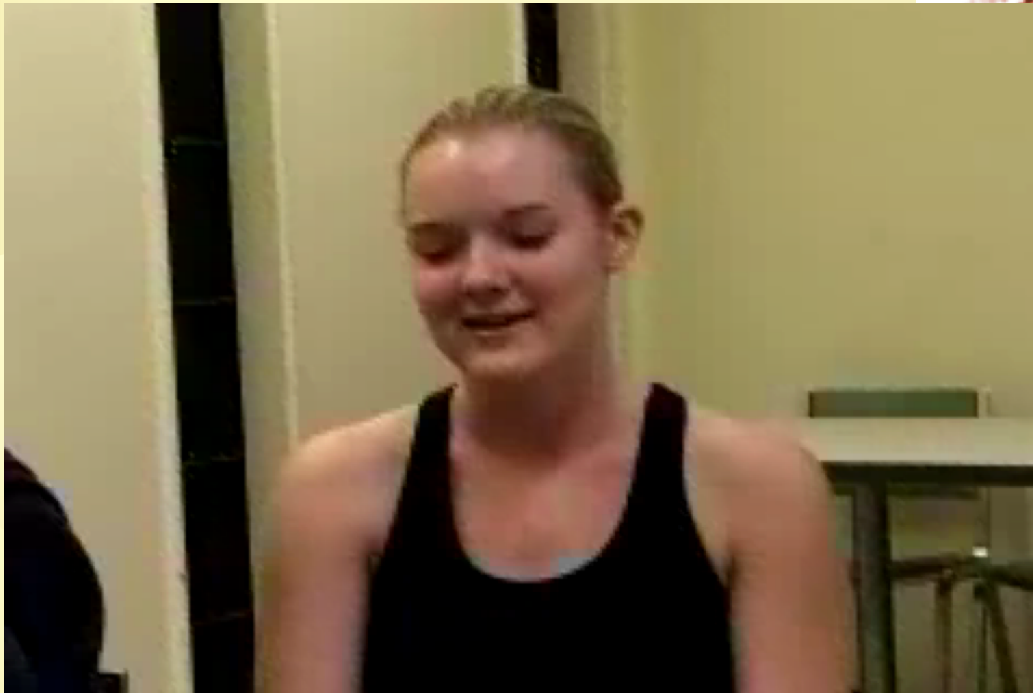
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Silent observers

- Complex relationship
- The presence of outsiders changes the experience
- Maintain neutrality
- Essential to earn trust
- Allow process to be revealed

Brain and Jennifer (2002)

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Protecting Intimacies

- Enjoy intimate relationship
- Performance and coaching notes in the corner, over loud music or whispering closely

Brain and Jennifer (2002)

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Non-linear process

- Investment -- riding in the moment
- Faith ...100's of hours of analysis
- Process takes twists and turns

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Revealing

As researchers we learned to have faith when looking at the process, watch for the big picture, allow the main themes to be revealed and know that all information will illuminate the work.

Brain and Jennifer (2002)

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