

## Clip: Choreographing Dance

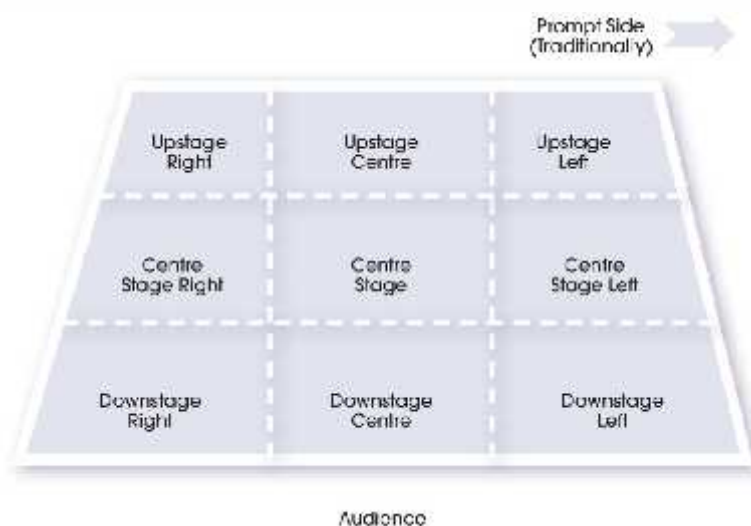
## Episode 7: Crush Test Dummies

## Activity: Space – Spatial Design

## Theme: Dance Skills

## Elements of dance: body, space, relationships

1. As a class, view the clip, *Choreographing Dance*. When two people dance together, they often make one shape. Ask students to find examples of 'couple shapes'. Have them draw the shape and shade the negative space around the shape.
2. As a class, discuss symmetry (balanced) and asymmetry (unbalanced) and define what they mean for dance. Divide the class into pairs and ask them to create four combined shapes that demonstrate symmetry. And then ask them to create four combined shapes that demonstrate asymmetry.
3. Allow students time to record and combine their movements and join them together to form an eight count phrase. They can use **Student Activity Sheet E7.6: Space - Spatial Design** to develop their ideas. Play some music to accompany the creative development.
4. Divide the class into two groups; A and B. Have Group A form a simple line or curve, and Group B create a line or curve that will be symmetrical, then asymmetrical.
5. As a class, explore other aspects of spatial design. Ask students what patterns could be used on stage and list them (circles, circles within circles, semicircles, diagonals, star shapes, crosses, small groups and large groups, clusters, V shapes, lines forward and back, rows, random dots, one person alone center stage, upstage left corner, etc.). Select students to demonstrate these spatial designs.



**Activity: Space- Spatial Design**

6. Have students apply the designs to their own choreography. Divide the class into groups of six. They are to develop a short phrase using four geometric shapes: two symmetrical and two asymmetrical. The phrase can be set to music or timed by the voices/rhythm of the students. The phrase should develop as a ternary form or canon.
  - Ternary form: a dance with three sections (i) a movement phrase, (ii) a different movement phrase, (iii) a return to the first movement phrase. Dances such as waltzes and polkas use ternary form.
  - Canon: a choreographic device where different people perform a movement sequentially at different times. It is similar to a round in a song such as *Row, row, row your boat*, but uses movement in place of or along with lyrics.
7. Have each group perform for the rest of the class and self-assess the success of their performance to meet the criteria.

**Download**

- Student Activity Sheet E7.6: Space - Spatial Design

**Useful resources**

- [Ausdance Factsheet 7, Safe dance floors](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 13, Safe spaces for dance](#)
- [Ausdance Factsheet 11, Producing a dance performance](#)
- Vimeo, [Ecsteriority1/2008](#)
- YouTube, [Flashmob Pitt St Mall](#)
- YouTube, [Flash Mob Dance off in Rundle Mall, Adelaide](#)

NAME: .....

Student Activity Sheet:  
Activity:

E7.6  
Space -  
Spatial  
Design

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## Space – Spatial Design

Dance designs can create body shapes that are

Symmetrical

or

Asymmetrical

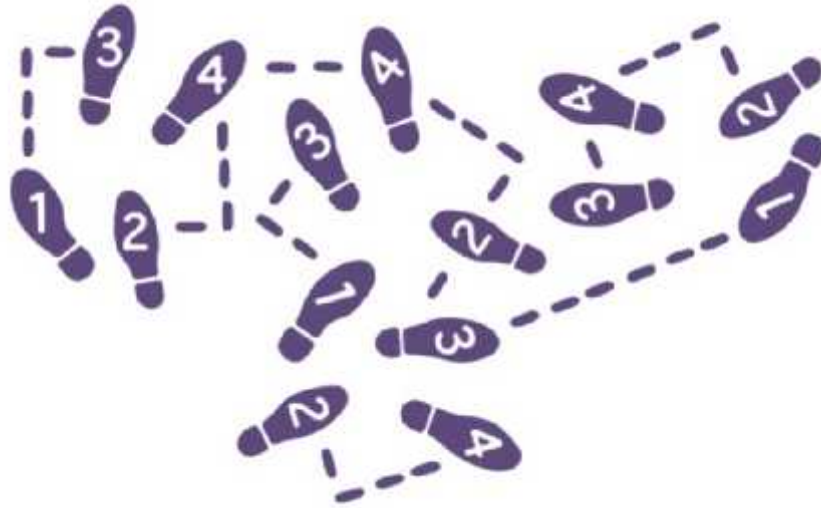


Or group shapes such as; the V of a flock of birds, a cross X or rows of people horizontally, diagonally or vertically across the stage.

Draw as many group shapes as you can here:

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Dance design (choreography) can also reflect the pathway you took as you travelled from place to place as you danced. For instance:



Think about the designs you applied to the choreography today. Draw them on another piece of paper. Include at least one travel pathway.