



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESENTS

Parsons Dance

Thursday, March 28, 2019

7:30 PM

tickets.occc.edu

Phone: 405-682-7579

www.occc.edu/pas

THE HISTORY OF MODERN DANCE

Modern dance is a type of theatrical dance which originated in Germany and spread to the United States in the late 19th and 20th centuries. It became popular as many people rebelled against classical ballet, fueled by changing socioeconomic and cultural factors. Martha Graham, considered the founding mother of modern dance, thought classical ballet was too European, structured and un-American. With the increase in American industrialization, the rising middle class became more prominent, which gave them more disposable income and free time. During this period, modern dance began to develop from an interest in physical education and gymnastics. In addition to Martha Graham, other well-known creators of modern dance technique are Alvin Ailey, Lester Horton and Bella Lewitzky.

Founded in 1985, Parsons Dance is a New York City-based modern dance company known for its energized, athletic, ensemble work. It is internationally renowned for creating and performing contemporary American dance of extraordinary artistry that is accessible and enriching to diverse audiences.

WRITE A REVIEW

Students will need access to the following:

- VIDEO: This Is Me – The Greatest Showman, Keala Settle @besperon Choreography <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMP6nMDjnKc>

Have students watch the dance in the video above, then have them watch it again and take notes. Things to think about:

- Did you enjoy the dance? What moments did you enjoy the most?
- What emotions did you experience during the dance?
- How did the dancers perform? Were they in sync with each other?
- Would you recommend this dance to someone else?

Students should write a short review (one to two paragraphs) of what they watched. They should use their notes about the emotions they felt during the performance.

TIPS ON WRITING A REVIEW:

- Give a general description of the performance
- Try to interpret the dance, including the genre, style and story they were trying to convey
- Sum up your impression of the performance and include who you recommend watch the dance



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