

DANCE COMPOSITION

Compositional Materials (Not exhaustive)

MOVEMENT

- **Codified Movement** – Steps that have names, specific techniques
- **Found Movement** – Invented movement vocabulary
- **Entrances and Exits** – Leaving and entering the performing area
- **Motifs** – Characteristic and repeated movements phrases, shapes, or images
- **Floor Patterns** – The path on the floor traced by dancers' movements
- **Trace Forms** – The path through space traced by dancers' movements
- **Movement "Efforts" or Qualities** – How movement is performed



SUBJECT

- **Narrative** – Story
- **Character** – Real, fictional, or character types

- **Relationships** – Among characters or inside of one
- **Tone** – The overall emotional feeling
- **Theme** – Treatment of a subject or feeling without being too specific
- **Text** – Spoken by performers, a narrator, actors, or recording
- **Politics** – In a broad sense, anything controversial that brings awareness to a topic; for example, social inequities with situations of unequal access to resources and opportunities
- **Class** – Having to do with money, education, and social standing
- **Human body** – Clothed or unclothed, politicized, gendered, etc.

THEATRICAL VALUES

Image: Bing.com

- **Costume** – Anything that covers or extends the body
- **Set pieces** – Any object that appears in the space, usually too large to carry
- **Props** – Any object that appears in the space, usually able to be carried
- **Make up/Hair design** – Often abstracted and non-naturalistic
- **Site specificity** – A physical space in and for which a dance is made



- **Technology** – Any digital device used to add to the performance environment
- **Film** – Usually projected onto a screen or fabric in the performing area

SOUND

- **Live music** – Any type of organized sound played by dancers or musicians
- **Recorded music** – Canned, rarely as exciting as live music
- **Found sounds** – Any sounds produced by dancers dancing, may involve set or props