

The Performance Dictionary
Ballet

pas de chat: (pah dih shah) literally means step of the cat; invented by the Russian choreographer Marius Petipa and first performed in the third act of *Sleeping Beauty*; a springing leap from fifth position in which one leg moves into a passé and the other leg follows both ending in fifth position

pas de cheval: (pah dih shuh-val) step of the horse; begin in a tendu; next brush the foot towards the knee and développé returning to a point touching the ground; one smooth motion like a horse pawing

pas marché: (pah mahr-shay) a stately and dignified walk

passé: (pah-say) to pass; the working foot passes through at the knee and continues into the next movement

penché: (pahn-shay) the body leans forward or backward

petite: (p'teet) small; for example, petite tours translates as small turns

piéd: (pee-ay) foot

piéd à terre: (pee-ay ah tair) the foot is placed on the ground

piéd à demi: (pee-ay ah d'mee) the foot is lifted half way

piéd à trois quarts: (pee-ay-trwah-kahr) the foot is lifted three quarters

pointes, sur les: (siur lay pwahnt) on tops of the toes