



FLY *quickly*

...like a superhero!

An educator's Guide to... Dancing Verbs, Adverbs, and Similes

*An informal dance performance presented by
Moving Current Dance Collective*

This program is presented as part of the Artists-in-Schools program, which is funded and jointly sponsored by the Hillsborough County School Board and the Arts Council of Hillsborough County.

Welcome to a performance that will create dances right in front of your eyes, with your help. Or at least first drafts of them! Our audience will get an insider's view on the making of dances by choosing verbs, adverbs and similes from separate hats and then watching as the dancers choreograph short dances to the chosen words. The dances link the three elements together through a pre-structured outline, resulting in funny and sometimes outrageous combinations. Illustrating verbs, adverbs and similes with movement creates a unique visual, expressive, and memorable experience.

Brief Order of Program

- Introduction
- Performance Etiquette
- What is Choreography? Inside View of Making Dances
- Students Create an *In Your Seat Dance*
- Moving Current Creates Dances to the Verbs, Adverbs, and Similes
- Performance of Choreographed Dances

bounce

slowly

...like a balloon losing its air

What to Expect...

We will begin with performance etiquette, demonstrated by the dancers, then practiced by the audience. Then move into a brief discussion on how choreographers make dance pieces, comparing and contrasting our process to that of writers.

Like writers, we organize our thoughts before starting:

- Thinking about the beginning, middle, and end of the dance piece
- Writing an outline.
- Sequencing what we want the audience to see with the music or what they will hear.
- Choosing a style or genre of dance that we will use to communicate our ideas.
- Create a first draft, and then revise it.

Next, with lots of demonstrations from the dancers, we will introduce the “ingredients” found in dances. Writers use words, painter’s use colors, and dancers use movement to experiment with the elements of shape, space, energy or dynamics and time.

Now the audience is ready to create a “stay in your seat” word dance using the words *wiggle, freeze, melt down, and sit up very, very, very straight*. They have their own dance without touching anyone or anything!

Finally we are ready to create dances using the Verbs, Adverbs and Similes that you have chosen from the three hats. This performance is fun, and effective in demonstrating the dimensions of creativity through movement. As those in the audience participate in the process, they gain deeper awareness of expression and communication, and their fresh experience provides a new perspective on dance.

In our last section you will see short dances that connect the dance “ingredients” to **verbs, adverbs, and similes** through movement. The dancers will perform a pre-made dance, breaking it down into **a beginning, middle, and an end**, identifying the elements, and **comparing and contrasting** the dynamics of the different sections.



Pre-Performance Activities

- **Vocabulary:**

- Locomotor and nonlocomotor (DA.A.1.1& 1.2)
- Improvisation (DA.A.2.1& 2.2)
- Choreography/choreographer (DA.B.1.1&1.2;DA.D1.1&1.2)
- Dance elements of shape
- Space, energy or dynamics and time (DA.A.1.1&1.2)
- Solo, duet, trio, quartet
- Verb and adverb (LA.B.1.1 & 1.2)
- Draft and revision (LA.B.1.1 & 1.2)
- Beginning, middle and ending (LA.B.1.1 & 1.2)
- Compare and contrast (LA.A.2.2)
- Sequence of events or order of events (LA.B.1.1&1.2)

- **A writing and dance exercise**

List action words

bend

Write a descriptive word next to each action word

bend **slow**

Then create a “stay in your seat” dance combining a descriptive and action word then add a simile to this dance

bend slow **like a plant in the wind**

Written or verbal, practice describing movement by using the following elements of dance: space defined as shape and path, dynamics that is the type and amount of energy used, and the tempo or timing of the movement

(DA.A.1.1&1.2, DA.A.2.1&2.2, DA.B.1.1&1.2, DA.D.1.1&1.2, DA.E.2.1&2.2)

(LA.A.1.1&1.2, LA.B.1.1&1.2, LA.C.2.1&2.2, LA.D.1.1&2.2, LA.E.2.1&2.2)

Post Performance Activities

1. What did the student observe?

*Have them summarize by listing what they re-call from the performance

* Then have them sequence the events

* Give examples of compare and contrast (LA.B.2.1&2.2)

2. Using the performance as a writing prompt

* Create a story from one of the word combinations in the performance using details, cause and result. What could happen before and after the word combination?

(LA.B.2.1&2.2)

3. Draw a picture of their favorite short dance. (LA.C.2.1&2.2 and DA.E.2.1&2.2)

4. Expand on one of the dances in the performance by having the students add a specific environment to one of the word combinations. Defining the elements of dance as they pertain to that environment. For example would they move slow or fast? Would their movements be heavy or light in outer space.... in a small roomin mud.... underwater. (DA.B.1.1 &1.2)

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME OF COMPANY/ARTIST: **Moving Current Dance Collective**

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PERFORMANCE NEEDS

Facility and space needs for this performance/presentation, with set-up and breakdown times.

- ✓ A **clean** open floor about 16' by 14' or larger. A raised wood floor is best for the dancers.
- ✓ A hand held microphone and sound system with CD available on the performance area.
- ✓ If a CD player is not available we will always have a portable but it may not be the best solution for a large room.
- ✓ We will need to 15 min. before the first performance for a sound check and for the dancers to warm up.

Audience to which the program is aimed:

- ✓ All elementary schools grades 1-5
- ✓ Separating the audience into 1-2 and 3-5 is preferred.
- ✓ This program is easily be modified for adults.

Wirl *lightly*

...like a leaf
falling to
the
ground.

Meet the Moving Current Directors

Cynthia Hennessy (Founder/Director, Choreographer, Dancer) was born in St. Petersburg and has rarely sat still since. She swam, walked, and then danced, in that order. At age twelve thru high school she performed with the St. Petersburg Concert Ballet, and then went on to Florida State University, earning a BFA in Dance. In the last 10 years she has focused on Skinner Releasing and improvisation, earning her Skinner Teacher Certification. Ms. Hennessy has been teaching and choreographing at St. Petersburg College since 1982 and has taught and choreographed at Eckerd College, the Pinellas County Center for the Arts, University of South Florida and many workshops in the area. Her dances have also been produced by the University of Tampa, Florida Dance Festivals, the Southeastern Regional College Dance Festival, First Night celebrations, Off Center Theater, as a part of the Vision's of Peace Project in Paris, France, Byron Carlyle Theater in Miami and most recently the Colony Theater, Miami. This year marks the sixth year that she has been commissioned by the Arts County of Hillsborough County to teach and create projects for Forever Moving Dancers, a group of movers age 45 and up. Each summer she returns to teaching children at the Fleming Fine Arts Camp held annually at Berkeley Preparatory School. In 2002 Cynthia was voted Best Choreographer by Creative Loafing, she received an Individual Artist Grant from the Arts County of Hillsborough County in 2005, honored as 2006 Tampa Bay Treasured Artist of the Year and most recently was awarded an Individual Artist fellowship by the Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs. Ms. Hennessy serves as a member of the Artist Advisory Committee for the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. Cynthia's greatest award is the privilege of working with many dedicated teachers, students, professional dancers and artists, who have given many hours of their talent to her creative endeavors. She is grateful for all that she has learned from them.

Erin Cardinal (Founder/Director, Choreographer, Dancer) has been dancing most of her life. In her younger years, she was the director, choreographer and star of many backyard and family room productions in which she recruited most of the neighborhood talent to perform for apprehensive, yet supportive family and friends. After graduating from the University of South Florida, Erin joined Pedro Alejandro Dance in NYC. After returning to Tampa, she co-founded Moving Current. Since then she has had the honor of creating and teaching dance for 13 years. Besides working with Moving Current, Erin has also performed with Elsa Valbuena's Gaudere Danza at the Danspace Project/St. Mark's Church in New York, NY and traveled to Castano Primo, Italy dancing with Jeanne Travers and dancers at the International Festival of Music and Art. She is a past recipient of the Hillsborough County Emerging Artist Grant, Dance Magazine Award for Outstanding Performance Nominee, and voted Best Dancer & Best Choreographer from Creative Loafing. Erin holds a professional teaching certificate from the State of Florida and has taught ballet, modern and choreography for the Department of Dance at Blake High School for the Arts. Her additional teaching credits include residencies and workshops for dancers and movers of all ages, Dance Masters of America, Harrison Center for the Arts, USF and St. Petersburg College. She has been the Guest Choreographer at the University of South Florida choreographing modern and ballet works, for St. Petersburg College, Dr. Philips High School, University of Tampa and Hillsborough Community College. Erin has also presented several works at the Florida Dance Festival where the Miami Herald reviewed her work as "...thoroughly contemporary and vastly refreshing!"

Kristin O'Neal (Director, Choreographer) is a visiting artist at the University of Florida (Gainesville) where she teaches modern technique and contact improvisation. She has performed with Miami choreographers Dale Andree, Bill Doolin and Gerri Houlihan while serving as Dance Coordinator of Broward Community College (1997-2004). While teaching at BCC, she was honored in the 2005-06 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Kristin's work has been shown at the Miami Light Project, the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, New Grounds in Tampa, the Florida Dance Festival, Miami's WinterFest 2008, the American Dance Festival, University of Florida's Constans Theatre, WOW Café Theatre and Trisha Brown Studios in New York. She was a finalist in the A.W.A.R.D Show 2008! for her choreography Heeling Sole shown at the Joyce Soho in New York. Kristin holds an MFA in dance from the Hollins University/ADF program.

