# Laban Movement Analysis and Notation

Notes for Teachers

## Background information

This activity was created as part of the Laban Movement Analysis and Notation module. The module was aimed at year 2 undergraduates studying at (FHEQ) level 5 for a BA (Hons) Dance and Culture degree at the University of Surrey in Guildford, United Kingdom.

## Activity

Turn analysis from video clips for reflection.

## Introduction

This activity is designed to give students an opportunity to practice and apply movement analysis, observational skills and documentation skills to film analysis. It will introduce them to digital archives as educational resources and will highlight the Digital Dance Archives at the University of Surrey.

In this activity, students have been asked to analyze movements from a film clip. The activity specifically addresses turning actions. However, any movement theme may be featured such as aerial forms, gestures, circular paths, or floor plans.

It should take them approximately 1 hour.

## Aims

1. To introduce students to electronic archives as educational resources especially the Digital Dance Archives at the University of Surrey.
2. To practice documentation skills and highlight issues related to the observation of movement from film source.

## Learning outcomes

1. Awareness of electronic archives as resources especially the Digital Dance Archives.
2. Development of observational skills required to analyze movement from film source.
3. Ability to create an online record of critical analysis and share it with others.

## Observation and Documentation Skill Development

Skills to be developed in class:

* Movement observation and documentation (Labanotation) skills:
  + What is moving.
  + Direction of motion.
  + Timing of movement.
  + Level of movement.
* Turning action:
  + What is turning.
  + Direction of turning.
  + Degree of turning.
  + Kind of turn.
* Issues related to film vs. live observation and analysis:
  + Point of View (Facing direction of the performer; camera angle; artistic expression).
  + Quality of image (format of film; age of film).
  + Clarity of movement (what is clearly visible and what is not).
  + Relationship of movers in time and space.

## Essential reading

Guest, A.H. (2005) *Labanotation. The System of Analyzing and Recording Movement.* 4thedition. New York: Routledge.