

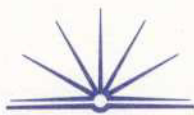
02

Prescribed artists: George Balanchine and Agnes de Mille.

A seminal artist in terms of dance is a dance artist whose work has left vast impact on the development of modern dance within America. Both George Balanchine and Agnes de Mille can be considered seminal artists due to their large contributions in the development of modern dance.

Firstly, Balanchine was scarred by war and isolated from his family. In moving to America he experienced difficult changes of a new country. After experiencing so much pain and anguish Balanchine decided to make his form of dance based on classical ballet yet with new themes. Aesthetics was Balanchine's paramount concern with creating his new ballets.

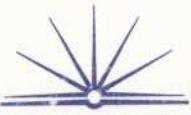
Balanchine's style became known as neoclassicism. Characteristics of this style include plotless ballets, predominant female castings, admiration for pure forms, weaving patterns on stage, intricate weaving shape work and grand costuming and sets. Balanchine can be



considered seminal as he went against the norm of dance artists at that time and created a style that was purely unique to himself.

Agnes de Mille created her own theories of dance. de Mille is most reknown for her cowboy works such as Rodeo and Oklahoma!. Agnes de Mille's contribution to the development of dance history is she introduced dance to Broadway as the prime 'story teller': de Mille proved that she could express a storyline through dance rather than through words, then song, then reinforcing this further through dance. Agnes de Mille's theories of dance involved a coughing action of the diaphragm where the upper torso experiences propulsions. By then manipulating this, de Mille created movement to portray the stories of cowboys. The thematic concern of cowboys also contributes to de Mille's seminality as this was an appropriate and typical form of American dance movement.

Both Balanchine and de Mille established ballet companies that are still in existance in America today. This only reinforces the concept of both



artists being seminal. Each artist had large contributions in the development of modern dance in America during the time of the 1920's to the 1960's