

Examination

Dance
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Section	Part	Question Number
		1

Date

Friday 21.10.11
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Number of booklets used for this question

1
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### Instructions

- Write your Centre Number and Student Number at the top of this page.
- In the boxes provided write the name and date of this examination, and the number(s) of the question(s) attempted in this booklet.
- If you have not attempted the question, you must still hand in the Writing Booklet, with the words 'NOT ATTEMPTED' written clearly on the front cover.
- Write using black or blue pen. (Black pen is recommended.)
- You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.
- **You may NOT take any Writing Booklets, used or unused, from the examination room.**

Start here.

Last week I had the opportunity to see a ~~class~~ contemporary ballet reborn ~~on the stage~~. The Netherlands Dance Theatre have revisited ~~a~~ choreography by Nacho Duato from the 1980's, titled Jardí Tancat. The piece reflects the Catalonian farmers of Spain ~~and~~ rather well, in particular through <sup>use of</sup> motif.

The most obvious motif that grabs my attention is the movement that physically symbolises ploughing in the fields. The dancer takes on a curved dimension, one hand reaching almost to the floor and the other rested on their lower back <sup>as</sup> they shuffle across the stage in a straight line in this labour-like position. Even from a person's point of view who has no creative mind or interest in dance ~~portrayal~~ <sup>portrayal</sup>, it is obvious that this motif represents farmer's working ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the fields and the strain of the constant bend (the hand resting on their back). Through continued use of this they do an excellent job of emphasising the farmer ~~portrayal~~ story-line.

For all those who didn't understand this movement, ~~and~~ another motif <sup>they may recognise</sup> is a scooping action towards the floor with the arm. This also represents the labour of working in the fields and does it in a way that can easily be understood by the many people who witness

this work that haven't seen for themselves the Catalan region of Spain.

Another theme of the piece is the constant cycle and repetitive nature of the lives of these farming folk. The dancers represent this in a variety of ways including circling floor patterns and the medium tempo of ~~the majority of~~ the work, but can also be seen in motif. Circling arm movements on the sagittal plane are used ~~throughout~~ throughout as a way of symbolising continuity and a cycle of frustration for the farmers who are constantly praying for rain. I applaud what Duato has done with this motif as I believe it is important for a dance not to be literal in its movements, but to be a little, if not a lot, abstract so the choreography can be interpreted differently by each individual in the audience. This is part of the art and magic of choreography and Duato has earned my respect for it.

Like his other works, ~~the~~ Jordi Tancat deals with human hardships, and this can be identified through yet another motif where the dancer hunch right over and shuffle purposefully with their arms held behind their legs. It does appear that there is a lot of bending over in this piece and that only reinforces the

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hardships of working on the land. It ~~in~~ identifies the constant bend in the fields and also the pressure they are under to produce good crops in dry weather. However the motif is more than this in the way it draws attention to the enclosed feel of the performance. "Jardli Tancaat" can be translated to mean "enclosed garden" and Duato achieves this effect through the setting of the stage (trees and a dark light) and through use of motif.

I encourage those with a good taste in contemporary ballets to take the opportunity to see this work. Duato's talent is clearly on display as a thoughtful choreographer.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.