

Examination

Dance
Core Appreciation

Section	Part	Question Number
		2

Date

21/10/11

Number of booklets used for this question

1/2

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.

Cry was choreographed in 1971 by African American choreographer Alvin Ailey. He uses and utilises an expansive white cloth to aid in the viewer's interpretation of the work. The work tells the narrative of an African American woman coming out of the ~~erroneous~~ Lordship of slavery, overcoming sorrow and becoming triumphant. The use of the white cloth aids in the interpretation as it ~~The use of the white cloth aids in this later:~~ enables the viewer to see the visual connection of the intent.

Ailey makes use of the white cloth in the first section. The dancer presents the cloth at the beginning. She stands centre stage, ~~and~~ with one spotlight on her. As she opens her arms with slow sustained movements, she presents the cloth. It shows her defiance during this struggle and therefore ~~also~~ aids in the interpretation. This is further emphasised as she walks to the ~~front~~ downstage with a statuesque stance. ~~and~~

As the dancer reaches downstage she collapses on the floor placing the cloth down. She makes use of percussive movements of the arms as she throws each side of the cloth outwards.

This is followed by sustained arm movements as she appears to smooth it out. This aids to the interpretation of cry as it shows the ^{context, being the} struggle of the African American slaves, as well as the sorrow endured. This is ~~able~~ further emphasised as it is followed by the famous Graham technique of the contraction. The dancer exhales and curves the spine performing a number of contractions.

The use of the cloth transforms throughout the first section as it is wrapped around the dancers feet and acts as a constraint. This shows the struggle of the African American slaves to break free and is symbolic of them being chained up.
It is symbolic

Again, it transforms into a scrubbing cloth in which the dancer is on her knees, centre stage and scrubs the floor. This aids in the interpretation of the work as it gives insight into the context of the work as well as the significance it has. ~~It is used to show people the truth about the slaves as~~ This includes ~~show~~ educating the audience ~~to the~~ of the African American people and their treatment.

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Moreover, it becomes a headscarf, which is representational of the African American pride and culture. The dancer holds the cloth and twists it then wraps it around her head. She stands tall with her arms back and runs, creating a circular floor pattern. This is significant in the interpretation of the work as it shows the defiance of the women, as well as the struggles and hardships she endured.

~~All of this adds to the big picture, where they wanted to show the audience his people and their lives. He wanted to bring show the struggles of his people and what they endured. Additionally~~

~~The dancer~~

Ailey uses repetition as the dancer once again places the cloth downstage, repeating the accented percussive arm movements, which create a tight cycle, followed by sustained movements. ~~Adds~~ This reinforces the struggles and hardship in which the woman endured, ~~as well as shows the~~ it shows the bitter sorrow as she throws each end with force and portrays intense human emotions. ~~Through~~ The use of repetition ~~is~~ used to end the first section to reinforce the

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treatment of the women and show the audience the treatment of slaves.

All of this is significant as it is used by Ailey to portray the struggles of the African American slaves, ^{his people.} It educated people and opened their eyes to the treatment. More importantly through this he bridged the gap between the general public and the US abroad. Ailey was able to communi

Therefore, it is evident that the use of the cloth in Alvin Ailey's cry, adds to the interpretation of the work, by showing the hardship endured and educating the public about the context of the African American background and people.