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Introduction to Artforms
Dance

Hard to be Soft - A Belfast Prayer, 2019 © Gaelle Beri

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Dance is the art of moving the body expressively to a rhythm or music.

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There are many different types of dance forms...
From Ballet, Ballroom, Jazz and Hip hop to Salsa, Bollywood, Contemporary and many more.

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Can you guess what type of dancing they are doing in the following pictures?

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Project R.E.B.E.L, 2017 © Mihaela Bodlovic

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They are hip hop dancing. Hip hop dancing is often seen in pop music.

Project R.E.B.E.L, 2017 © Mihaela Bodlovic

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9 , 2019 © Gaelle Beri

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The clue is in the shoes…
They are performing contemporary ballet.

9, 2019 © Gaelle Beri

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What kind of dance is your favourite?

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Dance has been around forever. Anyone can dance! Dance can be for fun, to perform, or can be used in a ritualistic way in certain tribes or religions.

Have you learned any dance in school?

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Rite of Spring, 2019 © Ryan Buchanan

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Dance is a form of expression.

More often than not, a dance performance will bring joy or evoke an emotion from its audience members.

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Dance can be abstract, meaning it doesn’t have to follow a story or theme.

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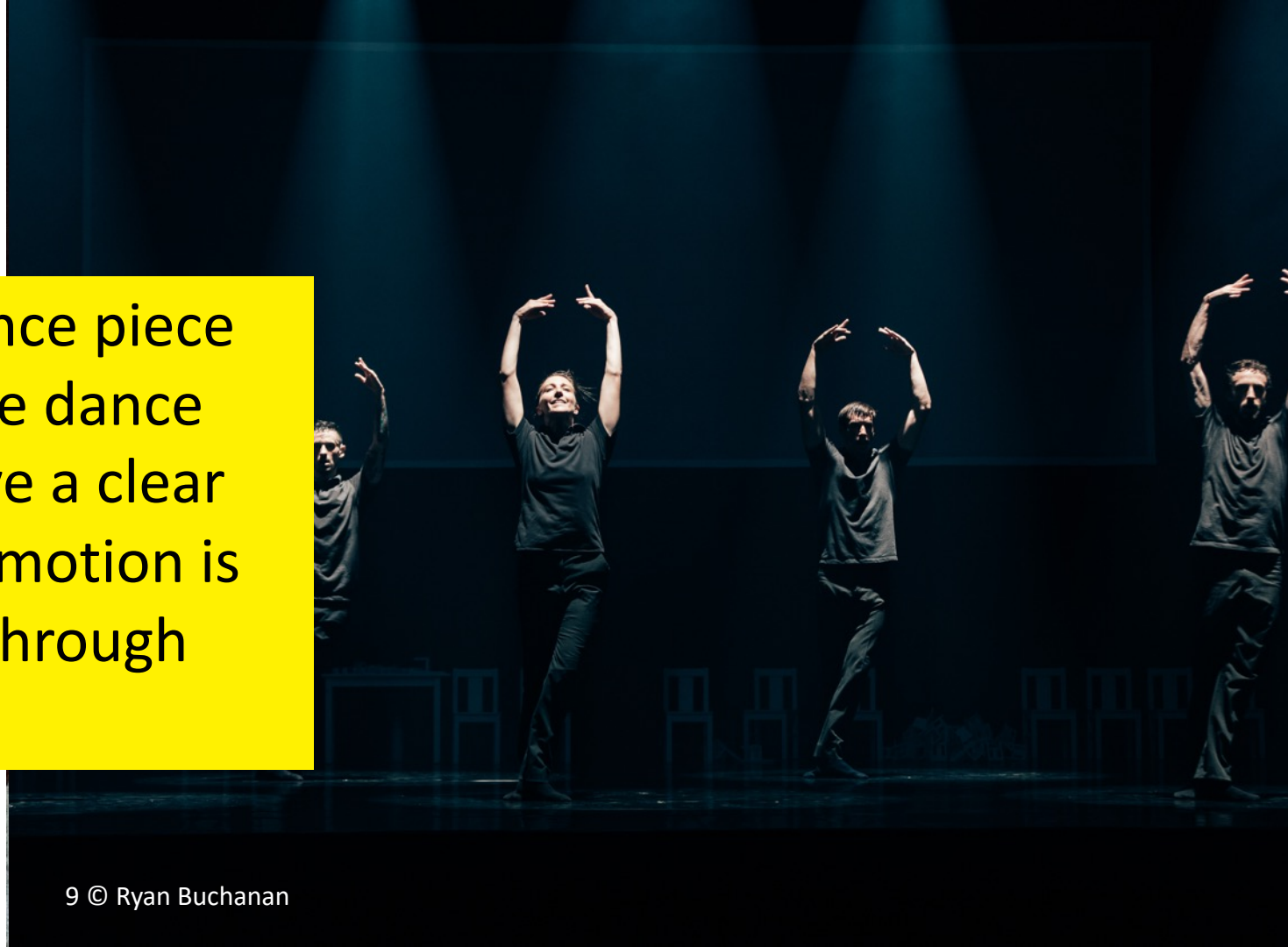
This is a dance piece called 9. The dance doesn't have a clear story, but emotion is expressed through movement.



9 © Ryan Buchanan

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Or Dance can tell a story through movement.

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This is a dance interpretation of a play called The Crucible. They don't speak any words but tell the story through movement.

The Crucible, 2019 © Jane Hobson

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Dance performance consists of any number of dancers on stage from a **solo** for one dancer, **a duet** for two dancers, to **a company** of three or more dancers.

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Here is a company of young dancers from Edinburgh performing in the Festival in 2019.

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The sequence of movements in a dance is designed by someone called a choreographer.

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The choreographer creates the dance by giving the dancers creative tasks to come up with different movements, and from there, they develop the movements into a dance piece.

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Here is a piece of dance which has been choreographed for outdoors instead of on a stage. It is by a choreographer called Trisha Brown.

Trisha Brown - In Plain Site, 2019 © Gaelle Beri

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The International Festival has hosted Dance Companies from all over the world.

Watch some clips from Rite of Spring! by Chinese choreographer Yang Liping.

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Along with showing dance as part of the August programme, the International Festival's Learning and Engagement Team create projects with the visiting companies to engage young people in schools and the community.

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Kadamati, 2018 © Ryan Buchanan

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In 2018, 300 young people from all over Scotland, including many from Edinburgh, performed a dance piece called Kadamati in the courtyard of The Palace Of Holyrood House. It was choreographed by Akram Khan.

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One of the most common ways we see dance today is online on apps like YouTube or TikTok.

What are your favourite Tiktok moves?

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Now you know more about dance, maybe you'll choreograph or perform your own routines in school.

The question is, what type of dance?