KNOW BEFORE YOU GO GUIDE

About RADfest:

The Midwest RAD Fest is hosted and supported by Southwest Michigan's oldest professional dance company, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers. The festival is a juried event at the Epic Center in Kalamazoo, MI, featuring the best in modern, post-modern, and contemporary dance from all over the country. However, here is a brief explanation of styles seen frequently on our RAD Fest stage:

What is Contemporary Dance?

Contemporary dance, an interpretive style rooted in innovation, blends techniques from classical ballet, jazz, modern, and lyrical dance. Unlike traditional forms, it prioritizes floor work, improvisation, and versatility, allowing for freedom of movement and fluidity. It serves as a storytelling medium, conveying characters, events, or personal narratives, and also communicates abstract ideas like ethical values and social issues. Costumes align with the thematic tone, often performed barefoot, and dancers express themselves to diverse musical styles, spoken word poems, or silence, evoking emotions in the audience through its dynamic and expressive nature. Reference: What Is Contemporary Dance? A History of

15th Annual

<u> Contemporary Dance - 2024 - MasterClass</u>

What is West African?

West African dance is a vibrant and culturally rich form of expression deeply rooted in the traditions of the West African region. Characterized by its energetic and dynamic movements, the dance styles vary across countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, and Mali. These dances are closely intertwined with the rhythmic complexities of traditional West African music, featuring intricate polyrhythms and percussion instruments. Often performed in communal settings, West African dance serves diverse purposes, ranging from religious rituals and social events to storytelling and celebrations. Dancers engage in expressive gestures, quick footwork, and rhythmic body movements, creating a powerful connection between movement and music. With ceremonial and ritualistic significance, these dances play a crucial role in preserving cultural identity, passing down traditions, and fostering community bonds. Reference: West African Dance: A Cultural Tapestry in American Movement Free Essay Example (studymoose.com))

What is Ballet dance?

Ballet dance stands as a cornerstone of the performing arts. Originating in the courts of the Italian Renaissance, ballet evolved into a refined and codified art form in 17th-century France. Characterized by its emphasis on precise technique, disciplined movements, and aesthetic beauty, ballet is known for its formalized positions and vocabulary. Ballets can have a storyline or be plotless. The artistry of ballet extends beyond physical skill, encompassing movement through graceful gestures, emotional expressions, and elaborate costumes.

What is Modern dance?

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, modern dance—an expressive style of movement—emerged as a break from the strict rules of classical ballet. Modern dance provides a dynamic canvas for choreographers and performers to explore the infinite possibilities of the human body in motion. It is characterized by its emphasis on freedom, emotion, and individuality. Modern dance promotes a more spontaneous and natural approach, frequently taking inspiration from ordinary gestures and emotions, in contrast to the regimented and structured movements of ballet. Today, modern dance is still developing, challenging boundaries and captivating viewers. Reference: <u>Understanding Modern Dance: A Guide to Modern</u> <u>Dance - 2024 - MasterClass</u>

Please listen to our own Marisa Bianan, Associate Artistic Director and Dance Academy Coordinator, engage with the Kalamazoo Community on Modern Dance:

ARTBreak: Engaging with Modern Dance - YouTube

What is ScreenDance?

Screendance, a dynamic fusion of film and dance, transcends traditional performance boundaries by seamlessly integrating choreography with cinematography. This genre harnesses the visual and narrative possibilities of film to enhance the expressive qualities of dance, creating a unique and immersive artistic experience. Choreographers collaborate closely with filmmakers to capture movement in compelling ways, exploring diverse settings, camera angles, and editing techniques. Screendance allows for innovative storytelling through the marriage of movement and filmic elements, enabling choreographers and directors to craft a visual narrative that extends beyond the confines of the stage. Reference: <u>Screendance: A New Visual Language – Stanford</u> <u>Arts</u>

What is Jazz dance?

Jazz dance originated from African American traditions and can be traced back to West African culture. The dance includes a lot of rhythmic movements, syncopated beats, and improvisation. During the early 20th century, jazz music began to emerge and rapidly became popular in the US. It was not long before dancing and music styles merged, giving birth to a new era of dance – The Golden Age of Jazz Dance. The age was marked by a series of remarkable dance moves that matched the fast-paced jazz music of that era. Known for its syncopated rhythms, isolations, and improvisational nature, jazz dance is a celebration of individual expression and musicality. Jazz dance continues to captivate audiences with its versatility, infectious energy, and ability to reflect the ever-evolving spirit of American dance culture. Reference: The Evolution of Jazz Dance - LiveTheDance is a dance blog - Guides, Reviews, Tips for Dancers

Traditionally accompanied by classical music, ballet continues to enchant with its combination of technical precision and artistic expression.

Reference: <u>A Brief History of Ballet - Illustrated by Pittsburgh</u> <u>Ballet Theatre (pbt.org)</u>

What is Bharatanatyam?

Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form originating from Tamil Nadu, India, is a mesmerizing display of intricate hand gestures (mudras), rhythmic footwork, and expressive storytelling. Dancers weave together movements that embody grace, strength, and fluidity, captivating audiences with their skillful execution. Abhinaya, the art of expression, plays a central role, as performers convey a range of emotions and narratives through facial expressions, body language, and eye movements. Accompanied by classical Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam performances are a harmonious blend of melody, rhythm, and poetry, with dancers intricately synchronizing their movements with the music's cadence. Rooted in Hindu mythology and devotional themes, Bharatanatyam is not only a dance form but also a spiritual and cultural journey, reflecting India's rich artistic heritage and profound cultural traditions.

Reference: <u>Bharatanatyam Classical Dance - History,</u> <u>Clothing, Exponents (culturalindia.net)</u>

What is Baile folklórico?

What is Traditional Chinese Dance and the Lion Dance?

Traditional Chinese dance encompasses a diverse range of styles, each reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and regional influences. Characterized by graceful movements, intricate gestures, and vibrant costumes, Chinese dance often draws inspiration from ancient myths, legends, and folk traditions. Performers showcase a combination of flowing movements, dynamic footwork, and expressive storytelling, conveying emotions and narratives through their graceful choreography. Meanwhile, the Lion Dance, a quintessential part of Chinese culture, symbolizes good luck, prosperity, and warding off evil spirits. Accompanied by rhythmic drumming and cymbals, dancers manipulate elaborately decorated lion costumes, embodying the mythical creature's playful antics and majestic presence. With its fusion of artistry, symbolism, and cultural significance, Traditional Chinese dance and the Lion Dance are celebrated forms of expression that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Resources: <u>Chinese Lion Dances: What Is It and What Does It</u> <u>Symbolize? (chinahighlights.com)</u>

Baile folklórico, or folkloric dance, is a vibrant and colorful form of traditional Mexican dance that celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of Mexico. Rooted in indigenous, Spanish, and African influences, baile folklórico showcases a dynamic fusion of rhythmic footwork, intricate choreography, and elaborate costumes. Dancers often perform in groups, executing lively movements that reflect the rhythms and traditions of various regions across Mexico, from the exuberant polkas of the northern states to the rhythmic zapateado of Jalisco. Accompanied by lively music played on traditional instruments such as guitars, violins, and trumpets, baile folklórico is a captivating display of cultural pride and artistic expression, embodying the spirit and vitality of Mexican culture..

Reference: Inside the History and Techniques of Folklórico (dancespirit.com)

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers Theater Information: Address: <u>359 S Kalamazoo Mall Ste 204, Kalamazoo, MI 49007</u>

- 2nd floor, Epic Center Building

Parking: The Epic Center Parking Ramp has accessible entrances from South St. and Lovel St. Metered Parking is also available on South St., Lovell St., and the Kalamazoo Mall.

- Parking is free on the ramp for 90 minutes, and then \$1.75/hour after that
- \$5 flat fee on Saturdays. Free on Sundays.

Accessibility: For those in need of barrier-free access to the Epic Center, we recommend entering the building through the Epic Center's front doors, located on the Kalamazoo Mall. The first floor of the building has an elevator, located across from the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Suite, that will bring you up to our theater on the 2nd floor! Concessions: Concessions is located on the second floor with Wellsprings Theater. Please no outside food or drinks. Concessions accept credit cards and cash.

• We offer a variety of alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks as well as a variety of small snacks. Merchandise is also sold at the concessions stand.

Tickets: Tickets are scanned upon entering the theater. Please have a mobile device with a ticket available or a printed-out receipt of your ticket ready to be scanned. Please contact our office at 269.342.4354 if you need assistance printing your ticket.

Dress Code: The Wellspring Theater has no formal dress code. To get the most out of your experience, we suggest wearing something that is both comfortable and reflective of your personality.
Bathrooms: Bathrooms are located down the hallway from the theater. We have signage posted and staff on site to help direct patrons.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Please take your seat upon entrance and read through the program. See if you recognize any songs or themes amongst the pieces. Getting familiar with the performance lets you enjoy the show more!

Also, look for any **sensory warnings** within the program. Visually, there might be bright lights, strobe, or more within the production of the piece. Auditory, there also could be loud music or sounds that accompany a piece. Please read through the program to know before encountering it unexpectedly.

Note that once the piece begins, you will not be able to enter until the piece is complete and there is a transition into the next one.

Tip: Saying "merde" is a way of telling dancers to have a good show for the packed audience.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Lights: Lights come on between works. During this time, it would be good to review the program for either the work you just saw or to prepare for the work you're about to see.

Phones: Phones and other mobile devices must be put away and silenced during performances out of consideration for the performers and other patrons. No photography or videography is permitted during performances. We invite you to sit back and enjoy the show!

Clapping: It is traditional to clap after each piece after the lights dim. At the end of the performance, there is a final bow from the performer that allows for cheering and clapping.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Please exit the theater and take any belongings or trash you have with you. If you'd like to keep your program for a keepsake, we encourage you to do so! If not, we ask that you leave the program either in your seat or with our staff so we can recycle it for a future performance.

Congratulations: Feel free to see a performer after the show and congratulate them on their performance! Many dancers would love to talk about their work with you.