



2020

DANCE AS ADVOCACY

A
RESOURCE
GUIDE

To begin our virtual presentation of Season 43, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago presents Rena Butler's work *A Tale of Two*, premiering online on October 22, 2020 and as a student matinee the week of November 1st. To accompany this work, this study guide offers a deep dive into one of the film's core concepts: Dance as Advocacy. Although it is designed for middle and high school students, this guide is for anyone who wants to explore the rich history and creative power of contemporary dance as advocacy.

LET'S DIVE IN!



**TODAY'S
AGENDA**



- 1 WHAT IS DANCE AS ADVOCACY?
- 2 RELEVANT VOCABULARY
- 3 WHO IS DOING THIS WORK?
- 4 ADVOCACY IN HISTORY
- 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- 6 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WHAT IS DANCE AS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy is defined as communication for the purpose of influencing others about an issue, idea or concern that is meaningful to you.



Human beings working together in a community have the potential to shift systems. Dance as Advocacy is one of the ways choreographers and dancers share their ideas with and about the world.



VOCABULARY



LET'S GO!



First, let's start with some important terms.

* Storytelling ●●●

Storytelling describes the social and cultural activity of sharing stories, sometimes with improvisation, theatrics or embellishment. Every culture has its own stories or narratives, which are shared as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values (wiki). Storytelling is about who you are within.

* Resonance ●●●

To understand, feel in common with, or sense a connection. Listening with your whole heart and sharing back moments you were right there with the storyteller. "I was there with you when..." "I felt it in my body when..." (Sunrise Movement Definition)

* Identity ●●●

Identity encompasses the memories, experiences, relationships, and values that create one's sense of self. This combination creates a steady sense of who one is over time, even as new facets are developed and incorporated into one's identity.

* Perspective



A point of view, specific attitude or manner through which a person thinks about something that was shaped by a person's identity.

* Representation



Representation is the act of speaking on someone's behalf, or depicting or portraying something.

* Activism



Activism consists of efforts to promote, impede, direct, or intervene in social, political, economic, or environmental reform with the desire to make changes in society toward a perceived greater good

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AS ADVOCATES



Camille A. Brown

Reclaiming the cultural narratives of African American identity. Making a claim on history through the lens of a modern Black female choreographer.



Dancing Indigenous Earth

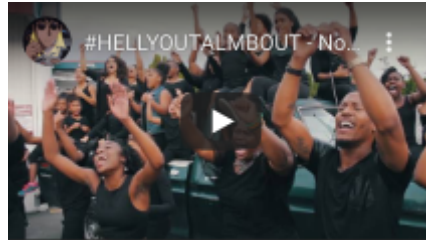
Advocate and support for indigenous diasporic communities. A platform for indigenous worldviews and first nation experiences, cultural protocols, multi-disciplinary arts and inter-tribal story sharing, environmental stewardship

Contra-Tiempo

Urban Latin Dance Theatre that moves audiences to reimagine what is possible. Rooted in salsa and afro-cuban and draws from hip hop, urba, and contemporary dance-theatre, they strive to teach context and history through dance.



CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AS ADVOCATES



Northwest Tap Connection

As race and social justice advocates, they work to raise a generation of socially conscious artists who produce works that foster change, sharing and appreciating the Black history of Tap.



Kyle Abraham

Explore intersectionality of the human experience through the lens of a Black queer in America with a focus on fundamental human struggles, his work honors, celebrates and uplifts the Black community and the world at large.



Axis Dance

Focusing on creating Integrated Dance choreography and redefining dance and disability, they work to challenge perceptions of dance and disability, creating a radically inclusive dance and world by removing barriers and showcasing the beauty of difference.



LET'S → DISCUSS AND ANALYZE

QUESTION →

How do you define advocacy?

01

QUESTION →

Where do you see or apply advocacy in your life ? (jobs, activities, community, school) Do you see this in your practice?

02

QUESTION →

If yes, how? If not, how do you want to see advocacy applied in your practice?

03

SOME OF CHICAGO'S ARTIST ADVOCATES

BRAVESOUL
MOVMENT

NATYA DANCE
THEATER

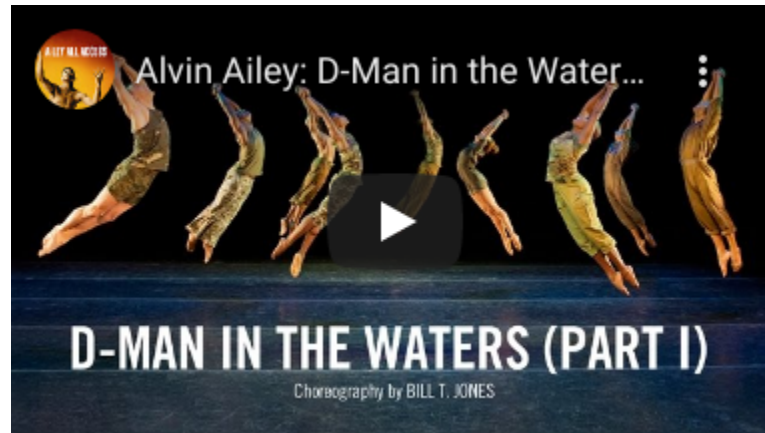
RED CLAY
DANCE

LOUD BODIES

J'SUN
HOWARD

DAMON LOCKS

BILL
T.
JONES



BILL T. JONES (Artistic Director/Co-Founder/Choreographer: Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; Artistic Director: New York Live Arts) is a multi-talented artist, choreographer, dancer, theater director and writer, and Associate Artist for the 2020 Holland Festival. Mr. Jones has received major honors including the Human Rights Campaign's 2016 Visibility Award, 2013 National Medal of Arts to a 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award and Kennedy Center Honors in 2010. Mr. Jones was honored with the 2014 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, recognized as Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 2010, inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2009 and named "An Irreplaceable Dance Treasure" by the Dance Heritage Coalition in 2000. His ventures into Broadway theater resulted in a 2010 Tony Award for Best Choreography in the critically acclaimed FELA!, the new musical co-conceived, co-written, directed and choreographed by Mr. Jones. He also earned a 2007 Tony Award for Best Choreography in Spring Awakening as well as an Obie Award for the show's 2006 off-Broadway run. His choreography for the off-Broadway production of The Seven earned him a 2006 Lucille Lortel Award.

HOW ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE?



QUESTION
→

How do you see the arts being used as protest?

01

QUESTION
→

Choose one artist from these lists.
What makes them an activist and why?

02

QUESTION
→

What would you create as a dance activist/advocate? What do you want to change?

03



Dance as Advocacy Throughout History

Maximize this space for additional resources you want to share with your students. It's something they can easily look back on or search online in case they need a refresher. Duplicate this page as many times as needed.

PICK ONE HISTORIC AND ONE CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHER FROM THESE LISTS. HOW DOES EACH REFLECT THEIR TIME?

Historic Choreographers

Ghost dances
Alvin Ailey - "Revelations"
Katherine Dunham
Pearl Primus
Donald McKayle
New Dance Group
Judson Church
Anna Halperin
Lester Horton
Josephine Baker
Loie Fuller
Njinski - Rite of Spring

Contemporary Choreographers

Heidi Latsky
Jeronne Herman
Axis Dance Company
Urban Bush Women
The Black Iris Project
Ballet Hispanico
Jose Richard Aviles
Donald C. Shorter Jr.
Deshaun Wesley
Disco Riot
Ananya Dance Theatre
Dancing Diaspora
Ragamala
Shamell Bell
Akram Khan

THANK YOU!

Join us next week for a new dance
discussion!



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