



2020



# EXPLORING THE CONCEPT

RELATIONSHIPS



Let's identify and explore the dance concept RELATIONSHIP! Discover how professional choreographer Rena Butler uses this idea in her work.

# RELATIONSHIP

The dance concept of  
RELATIONSHIP refers to the  
connection that a dancer has to  
everything else: to space, to time,  
to music and to others.



Everyone has a different and unique relationship to  
themselves and to others that is built by our personal  
identity. This identity is formed over time by our  
experiences, memories, beliefs and things we like  
which means we can have multiple identities. There  
are so many ways we can identify that make up who  
we are and how we relate to ourselves and to others.

What are three ways in which you identify?



# VOCABULARY



LET'S GO!



First, let's start with some important terms.

## \* Relationship ●●●

In the elements of dance - Body, Energy, Space and Time, relationships is categorized under BODY. Dancers explore the relationships of self to self, individuals to groups, self to objects, individuals to groups and objects, individuals and groups to the room/space.

## \* 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.

## \* Choreography ●●●

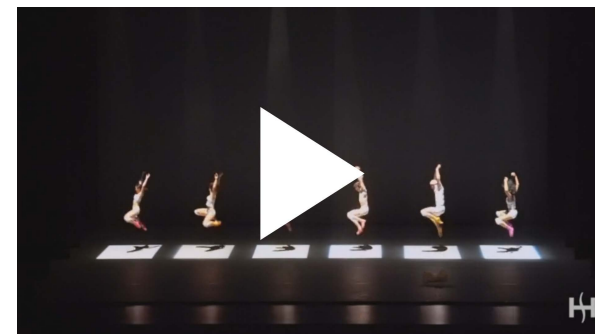
Choreography is a sequence or pattern of movements designed to be performed by bodies in space. We use the elements of dance, or dance concepts, to vary movement choices and express our individual voices.

# RELATIONSHIPS: SELF TO SELF



## Explore the Concept

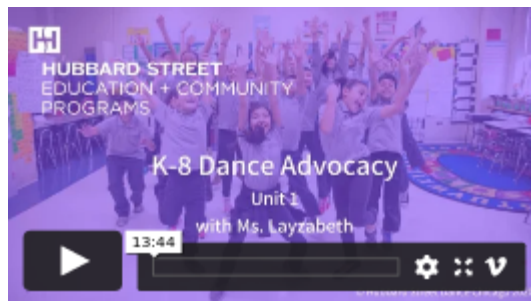
Company dancer Alyssa Allen demonstrates the dance concept of relationships using the vocabulary terms over, under, around and through.



## See the Concept

Now that you've created your own movement based on relationships, let's watch how choreographer Rena Butler uses this concept in her work *This That and The Third*.

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## Try the Concept

Now you try! Education Faculty member Layzabeth Gonzalez leads us through an exploration of RELATIONSHIPS in dance.

1. Choose a body part. Move that part OVER the rest of your body.
2. Move that body part UNDER another part of your body.
3. Check out the video to create more!

# LET'S → DISCUSS AND ANALYZE

## QUESTION



Select one dancer to watch in the excerpt of *This That and The Third* on the previous slide. Identify the movement relationships that resonated with you.

01

## QUESTION



What relationships did you choose to create within your own movement?

02

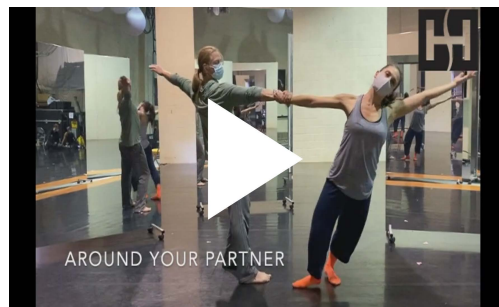
## QUESTION



How can exploring your identities help you understand yourself and how you engage with the world?

03

# RELATIONSHIPS: SELF TO OTHERS



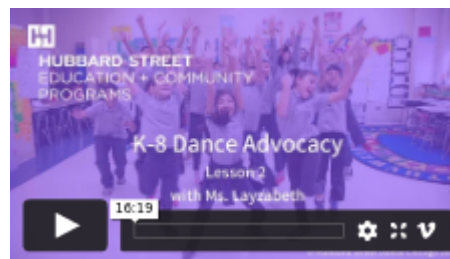
## Explore the Concept

Company dancers Jacqueline Burnett and David Schultz explore the dance concept of Relationships: Self to Others.



## Try the Concept

Your turn! Explore the dance concept of Relationships: Self to Others in this choreographic assignment with faculty member Layzabeth Gonzalez. Clear your dance space, grab a chair, and let's dance!



1. Review your choreography from Episode 1.
2. Adapt the movement relationships to partner with the chair.
3. Check out the video to create more!

## See the Concept

Watch how choreographer Rena Butler uses the concept of Relationship: Self to Others in her work *This That and The Third*.

# LET'S → DISCUSS AND ANALYZE

## QUESTION



What differences do you notice in the use of relationship vocabulary terms (over, under, around, through) when two or more dancers are moving together?

01

## QUESTION



Does it feel different moving with a chair versus on your own? Why or why not?

02

## QUESTION



How have current events changed the way you relate to your friends and peers?

03





Rena Butler hails from Chicago, IL. She has danced in companies such as Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, David Dorfman Dance, Manuel Vignoulle/M-Motions, and The Kevin Wynn Collective. Butler trained at The Chicago Academy for the Arts, studied overseas at Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan, and received her BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. Butler's choreography has been presented at The The New Orleans Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with Academy Award-winning jazz composer, Terrence Blanchard, CHTV Stories in Switzerland, and more. Butler currently serves on the Consortium for Chicago Dancemakers Forum. Rena is a 2019 Princess Grace Award Winner for Choreography and is currently a Artistic Associate at Gibney Company.

THANK YOU!

Join us next week for a new dance discussion exploring Rena Butler's new dance film, *A Tale of Two*.





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