



The Impact of Jacob's Pillow

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Methodology: Critical analysis, historical analysis, and the curating of choreographic analysis from multiple dance reviews from a variety of performances at Jacob's Pillow were used to estimate the impact of Jacob's Pillow.

Framework: Dance and the Community.



What is Jacob's Pillow?

- 220-acre National Historic Landmark in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts
- Home to America's longest running international dance festival
- Recipient of the National Medal of Arts



A Historic Place for Dance

- Ted Shawn's exemplary vision resulted in the formation of Jacob's Pillow
- Shawn desired for dance to become a validated career for men
 - Resulted in his company "Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers"



Opportunities for Artists

- Performing at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
- The School at Jacob's Pillow
- Pillow Lab
- Inside/Out Artist Submissions
- Jacob's Pillow Dance Award
- Internships



Community Engagement

- College Partnership Program
- Dance Education Lab & Workshops
- The Pillow Express
- Community dance classes
- Online resources:
 - Archives
 - Jacob's Pillow Dance Interactive
 - Podcasts/Youtube





Jack Anderson's Review: *Serving Up a Smorgasbord of Choreography*

Anderson argues that a concert at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival was “an artistically delectable treat” because of the diversity and assortment of ballet choreography.

Choreographic Analysis

- Buoyant
- Joyous leaps and bounds
- Intricate beats
- Groups formed and dissolved with remarkable rapidity
- Quirky shifts of weight and direction
- Complicated lifts and entwinings
- Leaps resembling acts of defiance



Gay Morris's Review: *Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival*

Morris's review of the festival in 2009 provides a more critical view (acting as a counter argument), but overall states that there were many pleasant surprises within the diverse programming of the concert. She concludes that the festival is a wonderful opportunity for underappreciated choreographers and emerging artists.

Choreographic Analysis

- Sporadically scratching and jerking
- Writhing on the floor
- Highly idiosyncratic
- Repetitive
- Whirling turns
- Torrent of activity
- Radiating energy
- Sculptural, well-constructed



Jay Rogoff's Review: *Taking Off*

Rogoff concludes that the evening length concert he attended in 2016 had multiple pieces all based and themed around “flight” in their own unique ways. Rogoff said this experience was special and exhilarating because dance can effectively be compared to defying gravity.

Choreographic Analysis

- Bird like miming
- Mechanical airplane formations
- Accelerating tempo
- Infinitesimal leaps
- Suspensions
- Decelerating kicks
- Windmill like
- Counterbalance

Significance of Research & Takeaways

- Provide a body of knowledge and comprehensive overview of The Pillow
- Encourage other dancers and artists to try and engage with/take advantage of opportunities
- Inspire other artists to create more festivals and programs because of the positive impacts of Jacob's Pillow



Bibliography

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