

Abstract

Pearl Primus is an iconic choreographer and a pioneer for black voices. I am researching her choreographic work *Strange Fruit* (1943) as an important contribution to concert dance. My research motivation comes from addressing the dearth of black expression in concert dance. I seek to give recognition to black voices and black concert dance. My primary research question seeks to explore the social impact of *Strange Fruit*. What effect has Pearl Primus's *Strange Fruit* had on dance and society? Noted scholar John Perpener recognizes the lack of representation of black contributions in the field of dance. He opines that black concert expression is under-recognized. By conducting a choreographic analysis of *Strange Fruit*, I will investigate how this iconic choreography by Pearl Primus advocates for the social progression of black concert dance in American society. I conclude that Pearl Primus's *Strange Fruit* is a major contribution to the dance field because Primus made black bodies legible in a humanistic lens, told real black narratives, and elevated black concert dance.