

Out the Box: Flamenco as Educational

A Living Theory Study of Dance in Primary Education

By

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ABSTRACT

“Out the box: Flamenco dance as educational.” A Living Theory study of dance in primary education

This study arises out of my experiences of conducting flamenco dance workshops in a number of schools. During my visits I became concerned by what I observed happening in dance education at these schools. In discussion with the teachers I began to identify various challenges and constraints that had the effect of ‘boxing’ dance in the formal education curriculum. I became concerned with the effect these ‘boxes’ were having on dance education and I felt compelled to try and address some of the issues and challenges I observed. The diversity of cultures found in many urban schools that I visited, presents a tremendous challenge for educators wishing to include dance into their learning programmes. As a result dance is either not being offered at these schools or is approached in a tokenistic way. In many instances the teachers I spoke to were inadequately trained or ignorant of the requirements for dance in the formal curriculum. This study seeks to offer a way to address these issues.

In my research, I have reflected on some of the educational and social factors that I believe are challenging dance education in these schools. I have conducted a Qualitative Action Research with an Auto Ethnographic, Self Study approach using the Living Theory Methodology as a point of departure. I have used my knowledge of flamenco and dance education to open the ‘flamenco box’ in order to introduce it to mainstream dance education in South Africa. I have come to term my approach ‘flamenco as educational’. In accordance with the Living Theory Methodology I include personal and educational aims and values and through rhythm and flamenco dance reflect on the interconnectedness of existence. I use critical reflection to engage with the issues I observed influencing dance education in a multicultural learning environment.

DECLARATION

I affirm that this entire thesis is my original work.

LYNN FERNANDEZ

As the candidate's supervisor, I have approved this thesis for submission.

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02 February 2010

Mrs. L P Fernandez
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Dear Mrs. Fernandez

PROTOCOL: " Out the box: A journey beyond the boundaries in dance education"
ETHICAL APPROVAL NUMBER: HSS/0056/10M

In response to your application dated 27 January 2010, Student Number: **208529373** the Humanities & Social Sciences Ethics Committee has considered the abovementioned application and the protocol has been given **FULL APPROVAL**.

PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the school/department for a period of 5 years.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours faithfully

Professor Steve Collings (Chair)
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES ETHICS COMMITTEE

cc: Supervisor (Dr. L Singh)
cc: Mrs. R Govender
cc: Ms. T Khumalo

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the memory of my parents. To my mother whose creativity and artistry inspired me and my father whose intellectualism always challenged my own.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 1) Alegria: Flamenco rhythm
- 2) Buleria: Flamenco rhythm
- 3) Cante Jondo: Flamenco Deep Song
- 4) Duende: Expression of profound emotion in Flamenco
- 5) Hip-hop: a modern dance form originating in America
- 6) Gitanos: Gypsies
- 7) Jaleo: Vocalisations in Flamenco
- 8) Alianza Flamenca: Society for promotion of Flamenco
- 9) Krumping: Urban dance style originating in America
- 10) Siguiriya: Flamenco rhythm
- 11) RNCS: Revised National Curriculum Statement (South African Department of Education)
- 12) OBE: Outcomes Based Education

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