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Original article

STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF JAZZ FUNK DANCE STYLE ON THE CREATIVITY OF DANCERS

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Abstract

Dance is a universal language, it is the way you can express yourself when words are not enough, you can express a multitude of feelings only with the help of your body and of facial expression. It has both amateur and professional practitioners. For professionals, the requirements and expectations are increased. A professional dancer must have a pleasant image, emit vibrations, transmit emotion and message, develop his/her driving qualities, but also musicality and creativity. Creativity transforms, gives birth, expresses... and that's the job of a dancer. Everything that is put in practice depends on the choreographer's creativity to perform, but it also depends on the creativity of the dancers to express and interpret choreography. The paper is based on the assumption that by the complexity, the diversity of movements and the means used in commercial-Jazz Funk, we manage to develop the romantic and choreographic creativity of the dancers.

Objectives: Considering the complexity and attractiveness of this dance style, the study aims to compare the level by means used in commercial dance with dancers who practice other styles of dancing to develop the creativity of dancers.

Methods: The proposed research methodology for carrying out the study addresses methods such as the bibliographic study method, the test method, the record method and the statistical-mathematical method.

Results: The analysis of the recorded results revealed differences in the tests of the creativity tests of the two groups, by Jazz Funk and hip hop, being visibly better in this, which makes us say that the effort to demonstrate its usefulness in development is supported.

Conclusions: Consequently, the results confirm the importance of Jazz Funk dance style in preparing the dancers, to increase creativity by practicing this dance style, due to the influences of several dance styles and the versatility.

Keywords: Dance, Jazz Funk, hip hop, creativity.

Introduction

"Dance is the most elevated, most emotional, most beautiful art, because it is not just translation or abstract of life, it is life itself." (Havelock Ellis)

Dance is known to be a true and clean exposure of feelings or a certain story. A dancer must have his/her own sense of creativity to be able to express through his art. Even when s/he follows the direction and dance of a choreographer, the personal creativity of a dancer is evident by the emotion exposed and transmitted. It can be by subtle personal interpretations of the movement or even facial expressions, but a dancer must be able to think and create to add his/her accent to choreography and show.

Dance critic, Walter Terry wrote, "there is no need for dyes and no brushes, balloons, dancers, piano or violins to create this art, because we are the things from which dance is made. It is born in our body, it exists in our body and dies in our body. Dancing, therefore, is the most personal of all the arts ... springs from life-breathing it self. (Terry, 1942)

Every dancer must know what points out and what makes it special, must dance with both the body and the soul, and must know the attributes of a professional dancer.

Story thinks today's dancers must have something more or a "wow factor". (Vincent, 2015)

Jazz Funk is a dancing style of the body and mind. Jazz Funk tells a story with your body.

Gail says that the beauty of this style is given by the ability to combine different dance styles, elements of different styles and create a unique choreography.

Subjects and methods

The experiment presented in this work was carried out with the help of some dancers from Oradea, at the NOW Dance School. There was a control group and a witness group, all the components of these groups being trained in this 1 year- 1 and a half year dance school, but each of them came with experience in dancing, ballet or gymnastics. Both the experimental group and the witness group have 12 dancers, girls and boys.

All the participants in the experiment are dancers, but practice different dance styles.

The experiment group is composed of 11 girls and 1 boy, practitioners of the dance style trade-Jazz Funk, and the witness group is composed of 10 girls and 2 boys, all hip-hop dancers.

In order to fulfill the purpose of this work, I used the following methods: the bibliographic study method, the test method, the coding method and the statistical-mathematical method.

For the dancers' study, their creativity was tested through five tests. The source of inspiration and provenance of these tests is a study published on 27

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September 2020 by Professor Esther Pürgstaller in Sport. The study is called "Assessment of creativity in Dance in children: Development and Validation of a Test Tool". (Pürgstaller, 2020).

There are no limits to fantasy, you can do what you want, dance as you feel, create without too many rules. (Gail, 2012)

Popescu G. claims that creativity is exposed by: the personality of the creator, the product created, the action of the target audience, the relationship between the inner and outer character and the type of information developed. (Popescu, 2007).

Hypothesis: The paper is based on the assumption that by the complexity, diversity of movements and means used in the commercial-Jazz Funk dance, we manage to develop the romantic and choreographic creativity of the dancers.

TEST1-Movement research

- Applying many and different possible ways in which your left or right hand can move without moving from the place to position and without moving other body parts.

- The movements made were counted



Fig.1-Personal archive



Fig.2- Personal archive



Fig.3-Personal archive



Fig.4- Personal archive

TEST2- Two body parts on the strap

- A 2,5-meter long tape has been stuck to the floor. The requirement was that they move along the belt with two parts of the body continuously touching the floor. The dancers were asked to find as many and varied ways as possible to move along the band, touching with different parts of the body. They were free to use what parts of their body they wanted.
- The moving ways were counted.



Fig.5-Personal archive

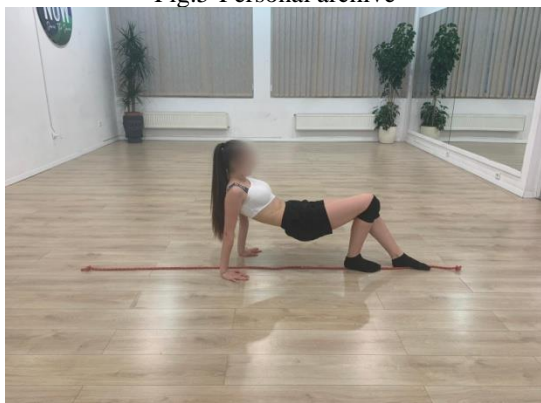


Fig.6-Personal archive

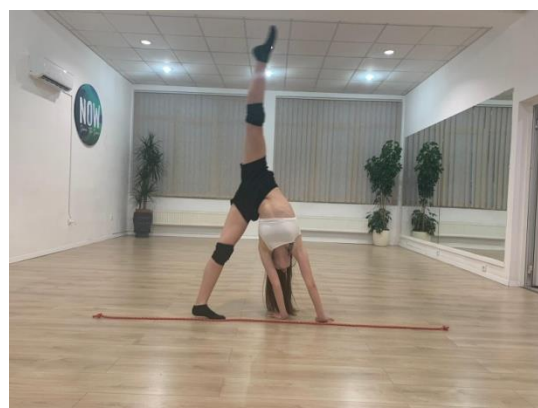


Fig.7-Personal archive



Fig.8-Personal archive



Fig.9-Personal archive

TEST3- Artistic transformation - image

- Reproduction of a visual image with the help of the body or parts of it. The dancers were asked to show how many image reconstruction variations they find (Fig.10). They were free to use any part of the body and take place at any spatial level.
- All variations and representation methods were counted



Fig.10-Personal archive



Fig.11-Personal archive



Fig.12 -Personal archive



Fig.13-Personal archive



Fig.14-Personal archive

TEST4-Artistic transformation-movement

- The dancers were asked to impress the movement of a rope (the rope was sashed/duped) with their body or parts of their body and to show as many different solutions as possible.
- All variations and representation methods were counted



Fig.15-Personal archive

TEST5-Creative Dance

- Creation of a short individual composition using body shapes discovered and explored in the 4 tests, in

Results

Test results - **JAZZ FUNK** group:

No.	Suject	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5
1	B.C.	15	5	8	7	5
2	O.O	17	10	11	6	5
3	B.P.	20	12	10	7	5
4	V.S.	25	9	8	8	4
5	A.L.	14	10	7	9	5
6	C.C.	15	11	12	9	4,5
7	K.N	18	8	11	10	4
8	O.P.	22	15	10	12	5
9	R.B.	26	13	11	8	3,5
10	D.A	25	10	8	9	5
11	S.P.	28	10	9	6	5
12	B.B.	16	6	9	9	5
TOTAL		241	119	114	100	56

Table1.-JAZZFUNK

many different and unconventional ways. The composition could include individual or unusual movements and be as long as they wanted, but they had to have a clear beginning and an end. The dancers were asked to memorize the composition and show it twice. They were free to dance in any way they wanted and were given time to improvise and compose. Creative dance was performed on music.

- It has been scored as follows:
•2 points - creativity (originality, inventiveness)
•1 point - compliance with the use of items discovered during the tests
•1 point - interpretation (expression, trauma, emotion, musicality)
•1 point - reproduction (identical presentation of choreography 2 times)
Therefore, the maximum score for this test is 5 points. It was also possible to score half - score (e.g. 0,5 for interpretation).

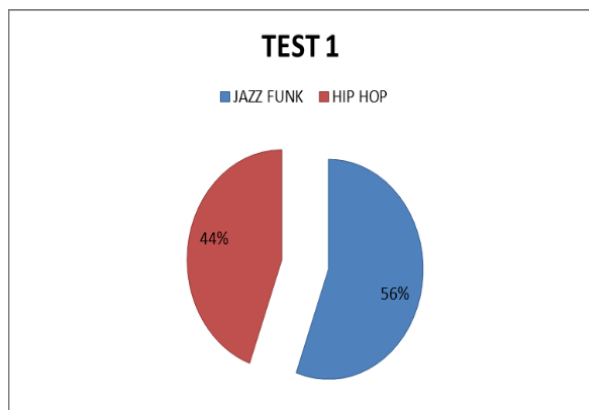
Test results - **HIP-HOP** group:

No.	Suject	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5
1	B.M.	16	7	9	3	4,5
2	F.R	17	9	8	4	3,5
3	G.G.	15	9	7	5	3,5
4	S.T	20	10	4	7	5
5	S.A.	14	5	5	6	5
6	C.A.	13	8	6	8	4
7	V.O.	22	9	6	9	4,5
8	P.A.	15	5	8	4	5
9	B.A.	12	6	8	5	4,5
10	A.M.	13	11	4	5	3
11	S.A.	20	13	5	7	3,5
12	A.Z.	16	7	5	8	4
TOTAL		193	99	75	71	50

Table2.-HIPHOP

Both groups, Jazz Funk and HipHop, were subjected to five tests. The groups have the same number of components, 12 in number. The dancers received points at each test they were subjected to the tests followed their level of creativity.

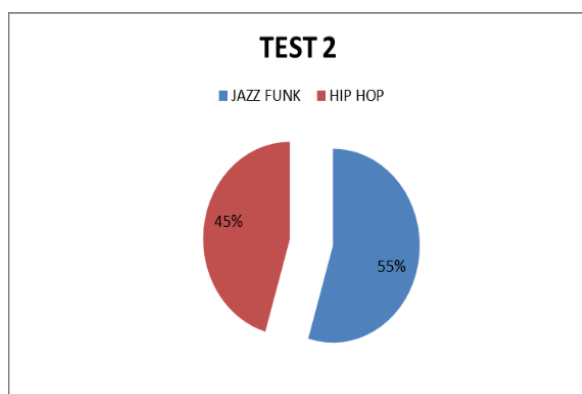
We calculated the total score on each test for each individual band. The refore, the results will bec ompared for each test between the scores of the two bands.



Graph.1-Test1

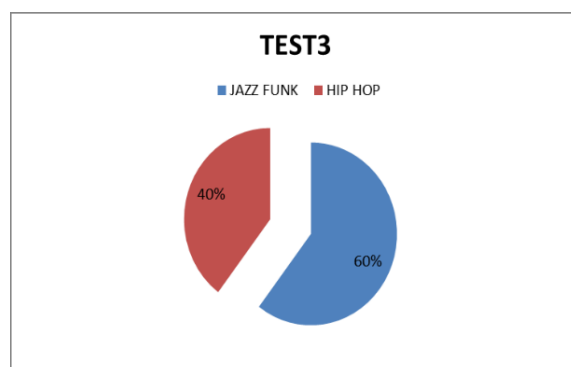
After the first test, the motion research, the better results being on the side of Jazz Funk. There is a difference of 9 percent between the two.

The results of the training in the vogue and wacking dance technique on the Jazz Funk dancers.



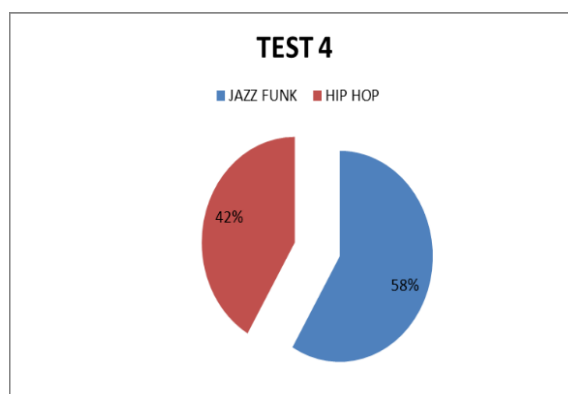
Graph.2-Test2

After the second test, two pieces of the body on the tape, the Jazz Funk bandproduces 10% better results than the Hip-Hop one.



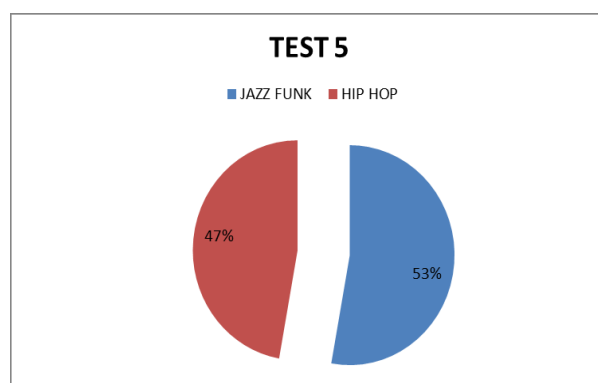
Graph.3-Test3

Jazz Funk dancers made the most of the moves during the third test,ballet and gymnastics represent their strengths.



Graph.4-Test4

After the artistic transformation - -movement test, the percentage difference between the two bands is 16% in favor of the Jazz Funk group.



Graph.5-Test5

In test 5 of creative dance, the difference was not very great regarding their talent in dance and improvisation, but the originality and diversity of the movements made Jazz Funk outdoHipHop by 6%.

According to the five graphs presented above, in all five tests the Jazz Funk group had higher results/scores than the HipHop group.The results confirm the importance of Jazz Funk dance style in thepreparation of dancers, the increase of creativity by practicing this dance style, due to the influences of several dance styles and its versatility.

Conclusions

Creativity is an important element of today's commercial dancers. It can make them authentic, different and valued.

Given that the dance style, Jazz Funk, combines the technique and movements of several dance styles, offers dynamics, plasticity, clarity and expressiveness, I believe it is an important style in the development of a dancer as well as in his/her creativity.

The difference between the results of the creativity tests of the two groups, the Jazz Funk and the HipHop ones, it is clearly better in favor of Jazz Funk, which makes me say that the effort to demonstrate its usefulness in the development of creativity is a sustainable one.

In conclusion, I can say, after obtaining the results of the tests applied to the dancers, that the objective of demonstrating the influence of the dance style, Jazz Funk, on the creativity of the dancers, has been achieved.

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