



Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World

Call for Conference Proposals

The Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University (ASU) will hold a conference on “Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World: A Lasting Legacy?” on **October 13-15, 2018**. The conference will be held on the ASU campus in Tempe, Arizona.

Description

Deliberately inclusive in scope, definition, and audience, this conference seeks to feature Jewish dancers and choreographers, along with critics, scholars, philosophers, educators, dance scientists, somatics experts, exhibition designers, dance therapists, funders and presenters. The conference defines Jewishness very broadly as a diverse, ever-changing, social construction that emerges out of specific historical and cultural contexts and that requires analysis and reflection. Thus Jewishness covers shifting experiences of Diaspora, the Holocaust, Israel, and Arab-Jewish relations, among other aspects. The conference seeks to encompass different dance styles, including modern, ballet, jazz, hip hop and “street” forms, ballroom, social dance, folk dance, Flamenco, etc., and consider developments in the commercial, art and social spheres.

Research Questions

The conference will address two broad questions:

- (a) What has been the explicit and implicit impact of Jewish creative artists, thinkers, and organizers on the evolution of dance in education, the concert dance realm, commercial dance world and other specific contexts?
- (b) How have concerns central to “the Jewish experience,” whether related to identity, history, religious practice, Israel, everyday life and/or conflict and war, influenced developments in the dance field?

Sub-Themes

The conference especially invites proposals for papers, workshops, roundtables and alternative formats that relate to the following sub-themes:

- 1) *Jewish Bodies and the Reimagining of Dance Technique*
How have shifting ideas about the nature of Jewish identities/bodies impacted the development of dance technique and dance pedagogy?

Center for Jewish Studies **Jewish Studies Program**

Lattie F. Coor Hall, 4465
PO Box 874302 Tempe, AZ 85287-4302
(480) 727-6906 Fax: (480) 727-2023
jewishstudies.asu.edu

2) *Dance, Community and Social Justice*

How have Jewish dance artists, educators, dance scientists, philosophers and program coordinators animated how we conceptualize self/other, community, empathy, and social justice?

3) *Jews, Dissent, and Irony*

How have debate, doubt and humor, as characteristics of Jewish history and identity impacted the evolution of dance performance and scholarship and the development of dance programs in higher education?

4) *Performing Trauma and Transformation*

How have experiences of persecution, war, genocide and the Holocaust and issues related to memory, preservation, memorialization, metamorphosis and transfiguration engaged the dance field?

5) *Redefining Site/Sight*

How have Jewish choreographers, video artists, exhibition designers, presenters and funders restaged dance and transformed our ways of looking at/experiencing dance on the concert stage, in digital media, and in other spaces?

6) *Diasporic Monologues and Dialogues*

How have struggles/experiences of navigating roots, routes, and memories influenced how Jews experience dance and relate to other minorities and diasporic groups/individuals in shaping the dance field?

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposals no longer than 1,000 words in length should be sent to Dr. Naomi Jackson (Naomi.Jackson@asu.edu) by **October 1, 2017**. Preference will be given to papers, roundtables and lecture demonstrations that directly address the conference questions and subthemes, involve collaboration, and reflect in-depth embodied and/or scholarly research.

Funding

Arizona State University will provide three (3) nights of lodging (October 12-14, 2018), and meals at the conference, for selected presenters. If financial aid is required for travel, please indicate in the proposal.

Publication

Presentations will be considered for future publication in print and online.

Documentation/Press Coverage

If you are interested in helping to film the event, or write about the conference, please contact Dr. Naomi Jackson.