

Site Specific Dance

Site-specific dance is defined as a performance that has been designed to exist in a certain place outside of the theatrical stage. Site-specific dance performance rose out of the dance experiments of postmodern choreographers of the 1960s and 70s. This form of dance was earliest explored by postmodernists like Trisha Brown and Pina Bausch.

Site-specific dance refuses the confines of a concert stage, from sidewalks to airports, bridges to buildings, choreographers reshape our conventional notions of performance.

Pedestrian movement: movement that is used every day

TRISHA BROWN

Trisha Brown is an American choreographer. She became a renowned choreographer in the 1970's. Brown's early works *Floor of the Forest* and *Roof Piece* are two examples of site-specific dances. Brown's work took place on rooftops, vertical walls and floating rafts in a variety of public spaces.

Two videos of her work:

Floor of the Forest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dAvQstiVqA>

First performed in 1970 in New York City, 'Floor of the Forest' consists of a steel frame holding up a web of ropes that have been threaded with clothing. This horizontal plane becomes a platform for two dancers to negotiate. Climbing onto the apparatus, the dancers weave their way across the structure by putting on and then taking off the clothing, occasionally pausing to allow gravity to pull their bodies toward the floor while the clothing acts as a cocoon or hammock. This version of the piece took place at UCLA's Hammer Museum in 2013.

Roof Piece

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QditNXqMmRo>

Roof Piece was first performed in 1971 It originally took place on 12 different rooftops over a ten-block area in New York City. For this version of Roof Piece which happened in 2013, the dancers performed at a museum in Los Angeles called The Getty Center.

PINA BAUSCH

Pina Bausch was a German choreographer. Like Trisha Brown, she also became a world-wide known choreographer in the 1970's. Besides using site-specific elements, Pina Bausch also uses **pedestrian movement**.

Two videos of her work:

The Fall Dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS8hEj37CrA>

As you can see in this dance, it is performed by a couple in a beautiful forest. Pina Bausch made decisions about this dance based on the cement stairs and the landscape of the forest. This is how this dance is site-specific.

Seasons March

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTGdeGY2YRU>

In Season's March, Pina Bausch makes decisions about the dance based on the hill that the dancers walk on, the pillars on the landscape and the wind that is blowing. This is how this dance is site-specific.