

# Moving Sites: Investigating Site-Specific Dance Performance

Site-specific dance performance is a form of dance that is created and performed in specific locations, often outside of traditional theater spaces. This type of performance often explores the relationship between the dancer and the environment, and can be used to create immersive and unique experiences for audiences.

There are many different types of site-specific dance performances, ranging from small-scale solo works to large-scale productions involving multiple dancers and performers. Some common types of site-specific dance performance include:



## Moving Sites: Investigating Site-Specific Dance Performance by Jan Camp

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- **Site-responsive dance:** This type of dance performance is created in response to the specific characteristics of a particular site. The

dancers may use the site's architecture, topography, and history as inspiration for their movements and choreography.

- **Site-specific dance:** This type of dance performance is created specifically for a particular site. The dancers work with the site's unique features and constraints to create a performance that is tailored to that space.
- **Interactive site-specific dance:** This type of dance performance allows the audience to interact with the dancers and the performance itself. This can be done through a variety of means, such as inviting the audience to participate in the dance or by creating a performance that is responsive to the audience's movements and interactions.

Site-specific dance performance can be a powerful and transformative experience for both dancers and audiences alike. This type of performance can allow dancers to explore new and innovative ways of moving and creating, and can give audiences a unique and immersive experience of dance.

## **The Benefits of Site-Specific Dance Performance**

There are many benefits to creating and performing site-specific dance. Some of these benefits include:

- **Site-specific dance performance can challenge traditional notions of dance and performance.** By taking dance out of the traditional theater space, site-specific dance can challenge audiences to think about dance in new and different ways. It can also break down the barriers between performers and audience members, creating a more intimate and interactive experience.

- **Site-specific dance performance can be more immersive and experiential for audiences.** By setting dance in a specific location, audiences can experience the performance in a more intimate and personal way. They can also engage with the site's unique features, such as its architecture, history, and environment.
- **Site-specific dance performance can be used to create a sense of place.** By working with the specific characteristics of a site, dancers can create performances that evoke a sense of place and history. This can be a powerful way to connect audiences to a particular location and to its community.
- **Site-specific dance performance can foster community engagement.** By creating performances in public spaces or in partnership with community organizations, site-specific dance can help to engage the community and promote social change. It can also provide opportunities for people to experience dance and the arts in a new and accessible way.

## **Creating Site-Specific Dance Performance**

Creating site-specific dance performance can be a challenging but rewarding process. Here are some tips for creating successful site-specific dance performances:

- **Start by exploring the site.** Spend time getting to know the site's architecture, history, and environment. This will help you to develop ideas for movements and choreography that are inspired by the site's unique features.
- **Work with the site's constraints.** Don't try to fight against the site's constraints. Instead, use them to your advantage. Find ways to

incorporate the site's unique features into your performance, such as using the architecture as a backdrop or using the natural environment as a source of inspiration.

- **Collaborate with other artists.** Site-specific dance performance can be a great opportunity to collaborate with other artists, such as musicians, visual artists, and architects. This can help you to create a more immersive and multi-faceted performance.
- **Be prepared to adapt.** Things don't always go according to plan when you're creating site-specific dance performance. Be prepared to adapt your plans as needed, based on the weather, the environment, and the audience's response.

## Examples of Site-Specific Dance Performance

There are many examples of successful site-specific dance performances from around the world. Some of these examples include:

- **"Cloud Gate" by Lin Hwai-min:** This site-specific dance performance was created in 1999 and is performed on a bamboo scaffold that is suspended 15 meters above the ground. The dancers move through the scaffold in a graceful and ethereal manner, creating a sense of floating and weightlessness.
- **"The Green Room" by William Forsythe:** This site-specific dance performance was created in 2000 and is performed in a glass-walled room that is surrounded by a forest. The dancers move through the room in a fluid and almost improvisational manner, creating a sense of intimacy and connection with nature.

- **"Public Intimacy" by Meg Stuart:** This site-specific dance performance was created in 2018 and is performed in a public square. The dancers move through the square in a highly intimate and physical manner, creating a sense of vulnerability and connection with the audience.

Site-specific dance performance is a powerful and transformative art form that can challenge traditional notions of dance and performance, create immersive and experiential experiences for audiences, and foster community engagement. By working with the unique features of a particular site, choreographers and dancers can create performances that are both visually stunning and deeply moving.

If you are interested in experiencing site-specific dance performance, there are many different ways to do so. You can attend performances in public spaces, visit dance festivals that feature site-specific work, or even create your own site-specific dance performance with a group of friends or colleagues.



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### Performance by Jan Camp

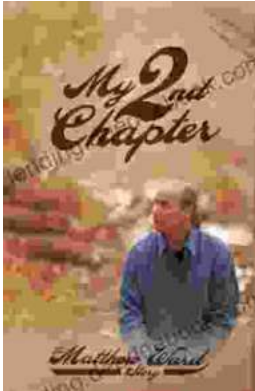
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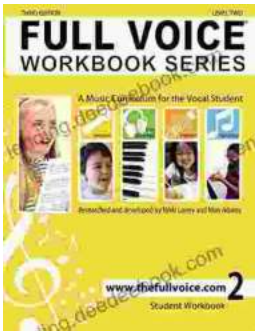
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