

23.6 Paper Presentation IV “Education” and “Light After Lockdown”

Covid-19 Pandemic and Online Dance Education: Issues, Opportunities, and New Pedagogies

By Christina Goletti and Dara Milovanovic

The Covid-19 Pandemic forced dance faculty in higher education to urgently shift to online delivery methods. Based on interviews with various dance faculty from diverse geographical, disciplinary and institutional affiliations, this article is a reflection on the dance pedagogy trends, issues, and concepts during the 2020 shift to virtual dance teaching and learning. This essay considers difficulties that occurred in online dance education, such as health and safety issues, the complexity of navigating students’ diverse socio-economic discrepancies and its connection to access, and the emotional and mental health toll on students of a rapidly changing art sector. It also explores new discoveries in dance pedagogies and ideas for moving dance education forward post-Covid-19. The research brings into focus the role of technology in dance education, its effect on teaching, embodied learning, and creative development.

Facing the Dual Pandemic – Uncovering Dance Histories toward Cultural and Personal Wellbeing

By Lisa Fusillo

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has brought greater focus to personal wellbeing and has also brought about the broadening exposure of racial discrimination. Considering the mental and emotional struggles of a dual pandemic, this paper focuses on uncovering dance as survival in a culture of suppression and marginalization.

Investigating the trajectory of 20th century American social dance crazes from the Jazz Era up to social media’s TikTok dances, this paper argues that dance is for survival in a variety of ways – survival of identity, survival from suppression and discrimination, survival of contributions to a national dance culture and survival towards wellbeing and acceptance. The research proposes that popular social dances created by marginalized citizens in the U.S. are cultural legacies that encompass dance as a mechanism for survival of unheard voices on a path to a future of cultural and personal wellbeing.