

# The Dance Universe

**ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:**

**Grades: K-12**

The Dance Universe is a brand-new arts and culture assembly performance designed to debut at Miller Outdoor Theatre in its 100th year that fuses together hip hop, break dancing, ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, swing, salsa, and bachata styles in an exhilarating dance performance. This educational performance encompasses comedic elements and inspires the audience in not just the art form of dance, but also encourages audience members to work hard and achieve their goals. Call and response portions are included in the final interactive portion of the show.

**TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):**

	Dance	Social Studies	ELA & Reading	The students will:
K	Std. 11	K.10	K.1, K.11	* Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Write literary texts, stories and poems that express their ideas and feelings. * Create dances to retell reading selections and help them understand concepts across the curriculum.
1	Std. 11	I.14	1.1, 1.12	
2	Std. 11	2.12	2.1, 2.12	
3	Std. 11	3.10, 3.12	3.1, 3.12	
4	Std. 11	4.17	4.1, 4.12	
5	Std. 11	5.20, 5.21	5.1, 5.12	
Middle School	1.4, 1.5 2.4., 2.5 3.4, 3.5	6.13, 6.16 7.13, 7.16 8.23, 8.26	6.1, 6.10 7.1, 7.10 8.1, 8.10	
High School	1.4, 1.5 2.4, 2.5 3.4, 3.5 4.4, 4.5	U.S. History 24, 25	I.1, I.10 II.1, II.10 III.1, III.10	

**STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):**

Writing Grade 4, 7 Recording Category 1 (10) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.
ELA & reading High School Reporting Category 5 9. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and use appropriate conventions.
US History High School

Reporting category 2

24. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created.  
25. The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity.

<b>Academic Vocabulary:</b>	
Hip hop	*a style of popular music of US African American and Hispanic origin, featuring rap with an electronic backing.(Rap: words are recited rapidly and rhythmically.)
Break dancing	*an energetic style of dance typically performed to hip-hop music, characterized by stylized footwork and acrobatic or athletic movements.
Ballet	*an artistic dance form performed to music using precise and highly formalized set steps and gestures. Classical ballet is characterized by light, graceful, fluid movements and the use of pointe shoes.
Modern dance	*a free, expressive style of dancing started in the early 20th century as a reaction to classical ballet. In recent years it has included elements not usually associated with dance, such as speech and film.
Contemporary dance	*a style of interpretive dance that embraces innovation, blending techniques from various genres, including classical ballet, jazz, modern dance, and lyrical dance.
Jazz dance	*a type of music which emerged at the beginning of the 20th century, characterized by improvisation, syncopation, and usually a regular or forceful rhythm.
Swing	*a fun and energetic partner dance that originated in the United States in the 1920s. In its simplest form, swing dancing consists of basic steps to the side and rock steps, done to music with a strong beat.
Salsa	*a Latin dance, which was first popularized in the United States in the 1960s in New York City. Salsa is an amalgamation of Cuban dances, such as mambo, pachanga and rumba, as well as American dances, such as swing and tap.
Bachata	*a style of social dance from the Dominican Republic which is now danced all over the world.
Call and response	*a musical phrase in which the first and often solo part is answered by a second and often ensemble part.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:**

*Before the performance:*

- Demonstrate dances that you know how to do.
- Watch different dance performances on YouTube or learn a few basic steps in a dance.

*After the performance:*

- Use information from the performance to create a song, dance, drama, or piece of artwork about dance.

**Language Arts:**

- Read “Alfonso Modoso” in Shel Silverstein’s *Batacazos: poemas para reirse* (In Spanish, see translation below). Act out the dances mentioned in the poem. Research the ones you do not know.

Alfonso Modoso, the dancing bear,  
Fled from the circus, without any care.  
Into my yard, he came very sassy  
Saying, "I'm going to shake my chassis."  
He started spinning, kicking and hopping,  
Constantly moving and never stopping.  
He danced the polka, boogie-woogie, twist,  
Moving so quickly, no time to desist.  
He danced a conga and a fandango,  
He danced a schottische—even a tango. .  
He danced Cuban steps and cancan from France.  
He never missed a beat in any dance.  
He danced flamenco with stamps and style.  
All the time wearing a dazzling smile.  
Then he came close to me and bent a knee,  
He winked, rolled his eyes and bowed very low  
Saying "Now, who will dance with Alfonso?"

- Variation: Read a poem such as “The Lobster Quadrille” by Lewis Carroll, “I Cannot Dance Upon My Toes” by Emily Dickinson, “The Weary Blues” by Langston Hughes or another poem and turn it into a dance.
- Write a story or poem about your favorite dance.
- Instead of just retelling a story, turn it into a dance. Example: *Anansi the Spider* by Gerald McDermott or *Baby Rattlesnake* by Te Ata.

**Mathematics:**

- Clap and count out different time signatures and rhythms for dances.

**Social Studies:**

- Find out about (and try out) traditional dances from different cultures or parts of the state, country, and/or world.
- Invent an imaginary country and create a national dance to express its character.

**Science:**

- Investigate aerobic dance and Zumba and find out how they can help the body stay healthy.

**Resources:**

Related Websites:

**Swing dancing:**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+swing+dance&view=detail&mid=6D94C6D32DF666E4A8296D94C6D32DF666E4A829&FORM=VIRE&ajaxhist=0&form=VDRVRV>

**Break dance:**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=beginning+break+dancing&view=detail&mid=C66FF7D4C81660E19993C66FF7D4C81660E19993&FORM=VIRE>

**Ballet:**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=basics+in+ballet&docid=608037537079317653&mid=F118ED6FOCC82FB3D735F118ED6FOCC82FB3D735&view=detail&FORM=VIRE&ajaxhist=0&form=VDRVRV>

**Modern dance (Martha Graham troupe)**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Martha+Graham+Choreography&view=detail&mid=D46BF4DD733B1592C6B6D46BF4DD733B1592C6B6&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3F%26q%3DMartha%2BGraham%2BChoreography%26FORM%3DVRPATC%26form%3DVDRSCL&ajaxhist=0&form=VDRVRV>

**Salsa:**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=salsa+dancing&view=detail&mid=59FC96FE9F02912FEE7059FC96FE9F02912FEE70&FORM=VIRE&form=VDRVRV&ajaxhist=0>

**Bachata:**



[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=define+bachata+\(dance\)&view=detail&mid=4CE7F8C49D4E79F2F6954CE7F8C49D4E79F2F695&FORM=VIRE&rvsmid=7B9AC01B7E23BE4A74C67B9AC01B7E23BE4A74C6&form=VDRVRV&ajaxhist=0](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=define+bachata+(dance)&view=detail&mid=4CE7F8C49D4E79F2F6954CE7F8C49D4E79F2F695&FORM=VIRE&rvsmid=7B9AC01B7E23BE4A74C67B9AC01B7E23BE4A74C6&form=VDRVRV&ajaxhist=0)

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Kenny Louis, one of Houston’s top Hip-Hop performers, competitors, and teachers served as captain of the Houston Rockets Launch Crew for several years and moved on to become the coordinator for the entertainment team. He is also a core member of RAD Crew, an accomplished breakdancing group based in Houston. After traveling the world performing, teaching workshops, and creating concerts, he decided to focus on doing work locally and started K-Lou Entertainment. Through K-Lou Entertainment, Kenny has brought together some of Houston’s best dancers, performers, and teachers to create work that inspires the audience to reach their goals. While bridging together many arts, with a primary focus on dance, K-Lou entertainment finds a fun, energetic, and educational way to gain the audience’s interest.