



SWA Dance

A LEVEL



Welcome!!!

- ★ Uniform – same as PE with SWA logos – ordered through me in Sept
- ★ Trips – Matthew Bourne’s Swan Lake – Jan 2025
- ★ Course structure



Component 1: Performance & Choreography

- ★ Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study
- ★ Performance in a quartet
- ★ Group Choreography

80 marks

50% of the A-level



Component 2: Critical Engagement

- ★ **One optional** set work within an area of study from a choice of four
- ★ **One compulsory set work** within the **compulsory area of study**

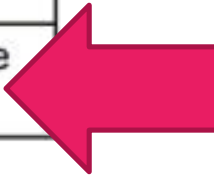
100 marks

50% of the A-level



Optional set works and areas of study

Option	Set work	Area of study
1	<i>Giselle</i> (Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, 1841)	The romantic ballet period
2	<i>Appalachian Spring</i> (Martha Graham, 1944)	The origins of American modern dance 1900–1945
3	<i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, 1952)	American jazz dance 1940–1975
4	<i>Sutra</i> (Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, 2008)	The independent contemporary dance scene in Britain 2000–current



Optional set works and areas of study

- ★ **Independent contemporary dance scene in Britain 2000 - now (ICDSB)**
 - ★ Two practitioners from the scene and two works by each one - **Matthew Bourne & Akram Khan**
 - ★ The importance of these 2 practitioners in relation to the ICDSB



Compulsory set work and area of study

- ★ **Rooster by Christopher Bruce (1991)**
- ★ **Rambert Dance Company 1966 – 2002**

You will study:

Constituent features of Rooster, as well as the themes/form/approach and origins.

You will also study similarities & differences between Rooster and other Bruce pieces.



Compulsory set work and area of study

★ **Rooster by Christopher Bruce (1991)**

This work is set in the era of the 1960s, and follows male and female relationships in a social context.

There are 7 sections all set to a song by The Rolling Stones.

It contains contemporary dance, ballet and social dances like the jive/twist.



Compulsory set work and area of study

Rambert 1966 - 2002

- ★ Rambert is the oldest and most famous dance company in Britain/Europe.
- ★ The development of Rambert through the decades under different artistic directors.
- ★ Two practitioners from Rambert and two works by each one (Richard Alston & Robert North)
- ★ The importance of these practitioners in relation to Rambert



Solo & Quartet

- ★ These can be in any style of genre from the set area and optional areas of study
- ★ In the style of **Bruce, Alston, Larbi, Khan, Bourne OR a jazz piece based on Fosse.**



Let's DANCE!

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Stimulus is a **book**.

My choreographic intention is being a bookworm, obsessed with reading, cannot tear your eyes from the book.

Task 1 - learn teacher phrase

Task 2 - create your own phrase using 8 action words and add it on

Task 3 - play with it using space and dynamics, repetition and motif development

Summer Task & Homework

1. **Rooster Analysis task** – Watch these two sections of Rooster and note down your opinions on what is happening in relation to the themes.

Little Red Rooster -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bTW8tPL6qY>

Lady Jane –

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

2. Read about the following choreographers in **Fifty Contemporary Choreographers** and make your own fact file about each of them:

1. Christopher Bruce
2. Richard Alston
3. Robert North
4. Martha Graham
5. Merce Cunningham

3. Watch two shorts videos on youtube by the five choreographers named in Task 2. Make notes on the videos you watched; the name of the video, the year it was made, subject matter, your opinion on it.

Useful websites:

<http://www.rambert.org.uk/explore/videos/>

<http://www.rambert.org.uk/performance-database/>

<https://www.rambertschool.org.uk/alumni/christopher-bruce-cbe/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rambert_Dance_Company

Watch as many **live dance performances** as you can; amateur or professional, in order to understand the requirements of performance and what makes a good performance.

Summer Task

▶ **Social Media:** follow these relevant accounts on instagram...

- @mbnewadventures @matthewbourne13 @akramkhancompany
- @sidilarbicherkaoui @rambertdance @rambertschool
- @richardalstondance @marthagrahamdance @tobias.bolliger
- @aleveldanceguides @flockworks @groundmovement.de
- @spencerdennis_mvmt @cdenice @hannaelisabeth
- @dance.labs



Summer Tasks – Matthew Bourne

1. Read and LISTEN TO the slides in the Matthew Bourne power point.
2. Watch Nutcracker all way through –
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001gnqj/matthew-bournes-nutcracker>
3. Read the handout on Nutcracker to understand the story.
4. Make notes on the set design in both acts – how do they inform the story?
5. Make notes on costume in both acts – how do they inform the story?
6. Watch Swan Lake and read the handout to understand the story.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvMT5MbIXX4>