

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT- SECTION 2, PART 2 AS UNIT 2

During the rehearsal period for our Performing Arts Event I experimented with two ideas drawn from Alvin Ailey's "Revelations" and Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal".

My first experimentation idea was taken from Ailey's "Yellow" piece and this was the use of block colour for costume. As a group we decided to focus on this dance and the group choreographer was happy with my idea of using just one colour but stressed he wanted to put a modern look to the piece. I decided to gather together modern looking pieces tying in with a red theme. I firstly went to the costume store to see what was there but found nothing that suited. I then asked the cast to bring in red items of clothing they would have at home. I asked the dancers to put on the items of clothing which were nearly all red. One dancer had a fabulous red velvet jacket that belonged to her mother which looked great but the choreographer felt that it would disguise the movement of the dancer's arms which were an important part of the choreography. I also felt it looked a bit retro against the other items. When the dancers had all their red clothing on it didn't look quite right as there was no overall impact. This was when I decided to design a special costume that could be made from red cloth. I thought of a simple shift like dress a bit like the ones in Ailey's piece "I've Been Buked". I felt it could be made from a cotton polyester mix which would keep costs down as we were working with a small budget based on the sale of tickets to our event. The choreographer liked the design and felt it would work. These first design ideas are included in my presentation file.



Figure 1

The next experimental idea was the use of hats as part of the design for some or all of the final performance. The choreographer was happy enough with this idea but stressed that if hats were to be used they needed to be secured well to the dancers heads and they also needed to suit the look of the overall dance. I decided to use hats for our second piece of dance based on "Smooth Criminal". As we were updating this I decided to look at the types of hats worn by criminal gangs in this day and age. Baseball caps with logos on the front seemed to be most popular. I decided to gather some black caps together and I added the words "Rough Criminal" written in black writing on a small piece of cloth attached just above the caps' peaks. The use of the word "Rough" was meant to add a modern twist to the dance but the choreographer did not go for this so I used the word "Smooth".

INSERT IMAGE

INSERT IMAGE

Figure 2

The dancers wore the hats for part of their later rehearsals but found them hard to keep on their heads. I tried stapling a piece of elastic from one side to the other and asked one dancer to try this in rehearsal putting the elastic under her chin. I watched her dance and while the hat stayed on, it didn't look quite right and it did nothing for the dance. At this point I felt that clips would work better, I tried this out and realised that the hats stayed on and also looked well.

I decided to run with this but went for the first idea of the red costumes as the one which I would develop further in the next stage.

602 Words