

Subversion of waltz: Applied creative ballroom dance teaching in Taiwan Youth American Culture Camp

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This dialogue recounts the experience of teaching Taiwanese youth the creative technique of the American waltz. The 12-hour course encourages adolescents to learn the basic steps of the waltz with movement activities, as well as the rudiments of social interaction. One approach used is the Eight-Check Cartoon for Drama Dance class: in the beginning, all members are divided into two groups and get the eight-check cartoon as a clue:

<p>今天是霍格華滋的畢業舞會。美妙的旋律與美食的香氣在空氣中飄散着...</p> <p>There are beautiful melodies and gourmet food at Hogwarts's prom party...</p> <p>? : 你看！有好多人在那裏喔！我們快過去！</p> <p>Look! There are so many people! Let's go over there!</p>	<p>狀況一：有人跌倒了。</p> <p>Somebody fell down...</p> <p>? : 我去拿掃把來！</p> <p>Let me get a broomstick!</p>
<p>? : 我的天哪！那不是天狼星嗎？</p> <p>Oh my god! Is that Sirius?</p>	<p>☞ Cha Cha Slide</p> <p>? : 什麼！是佛地魔...</p> <p>What! It's Voldemort...</p>
<p>狀況二：所有人必須把手牽起來 15 秒。</p> <p>All of the people have to join their hands together for 15 seconds.</p>	<p>? : 相信我！只要有心，什麼事都會成功的！</p> <p>Trust me! If you have faith, you can make things happen!</p>
<p>? : 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10.....</p>	<p>☞ Waltz dance</p> <p>? : _____ (所有人一起講一句話) All of the people say something.....</p>

Sample Eight-Check Cartoon

They have to assign different roles to different people based on the story of Harry Potter and the eight-check cartoon. After that, they have to work together to create a complete drama by using the inconsistent plots in the cartoon. They are also asked to put improvised dance and waltz steps into their drama when the symbol of a horn is shown on the eight-check cartoon. The intention of relating dance to drama is to diminish students' fears of expressing themselves, and also to offer the possibility of teamwork and a strengthened communication. Thus, dance is considered an avenue to body awareness and personal confidence. Applying creative dance when teaching ballroom dance not only makes dance acceptable to teenagers, but also frees ballroom dance from the traditional competition-orientation and gives teenagers a simple way to learn and experience ballroom dance.

Keywords: ballroom dance, creative teaching, waltz, creative dance, youth

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