

ASSESSMENT OF Y DANCE WORKSHOP "321 GO"

St Mary's school Stirling

25 March 2004

PRESENTATION

Yvonne introduced the video well and was very clear in her instructions and in her teaching. She was lively and well prepared. Some sort of ice breaker could have made the teachers comfortable more quickly even knowing names would have been a start.

CONTENT

The CD rom requires to be attached to a projector for visuals and to a CD player for sound. This appears to be rather impractical. I question whether a primary teacher will do all that considering that someone else may wish to use the space after. I do however see some potential for use in the classroom.

As a Movement teacher only having 16 counts for each exercise before having to click the mouse again is less useful.

The practical session was enjoyable simple and showed how easy it is to put material together to make a Dance. It was pitched at the right level and allowed the teachers to realise that they have movement vocabulary.

The session with the CD rom was only long enough to give the teachers a flavour and allow them to find their way around the resource. This was a worthwhile and enjoyable part of the session.

One of the aims of this workshop is "to enable teachers to teach Dance" As such it was too short to begin that journey and one of the few questions that were asked of Yvonne was "When are you coming to do it"

THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

1. I think that some of the warm up section and the content of themes is unsuitable for this age group
2. The counts are not long enough for the exercises
3. The use of the required technology may be impractical in a gymnasium
4. When I used it on my computer and maximised gorf I had no way of exiting without switching off my computer(perhaps I received a faulty disc!)

2.

5. Although it is a starter it is rather formulaic and does not appear to encourage the teachers own ideas.

6. It encourages young children to BE - say -a fish rather than think of the movement qualities associated with that and does not appear to engage the imagination. Since the early experience of dance many years have been spent trying to eradicate the "BE A TREE " syndrome.

7. There does not appear to be any talk of the language of dance or even a walk through the ACTION WORD approach to teaching Dance in The primary school. I consider this to be a huge omission as it does not allow understanding of movement or how to progress.

8. There is no mention of adapting the material for disabled young people.

Dance is many things to many people and different approaches are valuable. However although this resource is quirky, and it is a good marketing tool for Y DANCE, it may be oversimplified. It may get some teachers started but does not allow for progression or teaching for development. It could be useful in a classroom situation but perhaps a little impractical in the gymnasium.

I am concerned that those with funding to give to Dance may consider this the best resource around. Y dance are getting close to becoming a monopoly which could be detrimental to Dance in the Primary School.

Val Munro May 2004