

# JAZZ Workshop

with Genny Sermonia



# A brief history of JAZZ

Try out these dances that later were incorporated into the style of jazz.

## The Shim Sham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjFM4Wvj9UI>

## The Shimmy

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

## The Black Bottom

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_a57YoEol](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_a57YoEol)

## The Swing Era

The swing era was pre war and war time dancing. This clip from the Swing Kids movie is depicted of the 1940's swing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHcBYGN-3uM>



# JAZZ Movements/Terminology

- ❑ Step touch
- ❑ Step cross touch
- ❑ Step together step touch
- ❑ Step turn
- ❑ Jazz Walk
- ❑ Jazz Square - step right, cross left over right, right behind, left beside right foot
- ❑ Jazz Slide - (sideways) step left over right foot, step right and drag left foot
- ❑ Grapevine - step behind step in front - this moves sideways
- ❑ Trench Coat- kick backwards with arms swinging straight
- ❑ Charleston (1920's step) - l fwd, r fwd. r back, left back) Variations: Add kick (fwd or back) or touch the floor between steps
- ❑ Can Can (Rockette Kickline) - kick knee up and battement (all dancers are attached)
- ❑ Spotting (learn before turning)
- ❑ Fan Kick - a large kick that arcs, leg can be high, medium or low in height
- ❑ Step Flick
- ❑ Kick ball change - kick right step back and change weight to left (front) and then right foot.

# Jazz Movements/Terminology (cont'd)

- ❑ Battement - (translation Beat) - large kick to front, side, back
- ❑ Paddle Turn - Left arm straight up Right arm straight down kick right hand as you turn (repeat)
- ❑ Soutenu Turn - Sustained turn
- ❑ Pivot Turn- step right, step left step right turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  step right turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  (Add flick kick on the first  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn)
- ❑ Chaîne Turn - Chain- series of turns on releve
- ❑ Pose- placing the body in a shape and holding for 4 counts.
- ❑ Pas De Bouree - 3 step transition step (17th century French dance) - may add a kick: step behind step side step in front, kick.
- ❑ Jete-Leap
- ❑ Chasse - Chase step ) one leg chases the other)
- ❑ Coupe - (Cut) Bend Leg (turn out) and point toes to the opposite ankle
- ❑ Charlie Chaplin Walk
- ❑ Accordion - moving sideways knees in second position in plie open and close knees arms crossover hands on knees repeat both directions

# JAZZ DANCE



## Jazz Steps through the Ages

This video will take you through the ages. You may recognize some of the steps, others you may not. Try to learn some.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqHt2VeYJN4>

## Alphabetical Jazz Steps Video

Some history with some of the jazz steps from Chester Whitmore. Chester's teacher was Fayard Nicholas of the Nicholas Brothers tap duo. Challenge yourself to learn on step.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAlwJd2tQo0>



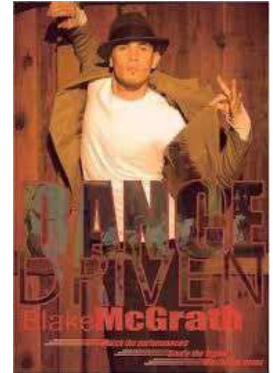
# Famous Canadian JAZZ Choreographers

Choose one of the following influential CANADIAN JAZZ choreographers:

Brian MacDonald, David Earle, Danny Grossman, Donna Feore, Scott Fordham, Esie Mensah, Heidi Strauss, Peter Randazzo, Blake McGrath, Bakari Lindsay, or your teacher's suggestion.

Research the following:

1. Their birthplace and where they grew up.
2. When and where they started to dance.
3. Their dance experience.
4. Their JAZZ style and unique contributions to the artform of JAZZ dance.
5. Musicians, dance companies, videos, concerts, television shows, and/or movies they have performed with or choreographed for.
6. Awards or other special accomplishments they have made in their career.
7. A photo of the choreographer.



# JAZZ Choreographer Bob Fosse



**Bob Fosse** was an American dancer, musical-theatre choreographer, actor, theatre director, and filmmaker.

Fosse achieved success as a choreographer and director of stage and screen musicals. He set records with Tony and Academy Awards won for his work, which includes *Damn Yankees* (1955), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961), *Sweet Charity* (1966), *Pippin* (1972), and *Chicago* (1975). His films include *Sweet Charity*(1969), *Cabaret* (1972), *Lenny* (1975), and *All That Jazz* (1979).

Fosse's distinctive style of choreography included turned-in knees and "jazz hands." He is the only person ever to have won **Oscar**, **Emmy**, and **Tony** awards in the same year (1973). He was nominated for four Academy Awards, winning **Best Director** for *Cabaret*, and won the **Palme D'Or** in 1980 for *All That Jazz*. He won a record eight Tonys for his choreography, as well as one for direction for *Pippin*.

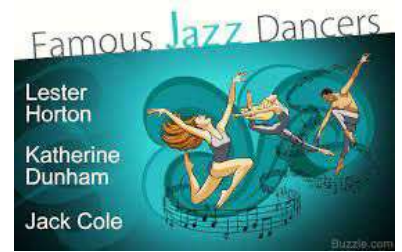
Fosse was born June 23, 1927, Chicago

Fosse died of a heart attack in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 1987



# Choose Your Own JAZZ Choreographer

Choose one of the following influential JAZZ choreographers:



Jerome Robbins, Jack Cole, Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Gus Giordano, Michael Jackson, Ben Vereen, Twyla Tharp, Matt Mattox, or your teacher's suggestion.

**Research the following:**

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# What comes first? Jazz dance or Jazz music?



Jazz dance is bonded to jazz music and the evolution of jazz dance parallels the development of jazz and popular music.

COMMENT on the specific influences of music to the movement and style of JAZZ dance and provide evidence of the relationship.

Create a collage of pictures showing the strong inter-relationship that JAZZ music and movement share.



# JAZZ Research Assignment

Identify and describe the distinguishing factors of Jazz dance as seen in film and on stage through...

\*The 1940s and 1950s

\*The 1960s and 1970s

\*The 1980s and 1990s

\*The 2000s - 2010s

\*The 2010s until Today

