

Group Piece Reflection: Choreographer

Through the Void to Brilliance was an important and complex piece for me to create in only one and half hours. I came into choreographic project after just completing directing and choreographing a 35-minute theatrical production; however, that experience also helped spark the purpose of this piece. I believe all creators hit this wall where they begin to doubt and hate the thing that they have worked so hard to create. That point hits us all at different times, but (especially with projects that are important to us) hit it does! I wanted to explore that feeling with this piece.

One of the craziest parts of “the void” that I wanted to explore was the deep breath of realizing one’s decisions were good, and nothing they’ve created is as bad as they were seeing it moments before. I explored this feeling with having the dancers work in silence at the beginning of this piece, doing simple, repetitive gestures. I then had them end in the exact same way. This represented an artist regaining trust in their choices and impulses, knowing that what they create(d) was always brilliant.

I tried to create my piece using Butterworth’s Didactic-Democratic Framework Model’s role of a Pilot and having my dancers be contributors. I provided them with three phrases—breaking point, light at the end of the tunnel, and begin again—and asked them to create two 8 counts of movement from each of those three phrases. I then took the movement they created and formed the rest of my choreography. I loved working this way, because I got to see how my dancers embodied my concept and if I ever got uninspired by my own ideas, I could use theirs.

This piece was truly only possible because of the people I had to work with. The women I was working with were all so willing and patient and I’m so grateful for them.