DANCING THROUGH TIME: AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL DANCE

Dance Instructor: Cathya FranKo

Presenters: Lauren Gallicchio, Kelly Booth, Colin Broderick
AGENDA

- Introductions
- Ballroom Instruction from Ms. FranKo
- Historical Connections and Lesson Applications
- Online survey
It comes from the **Dominican Republic** (Republic Dominic)
MERENGUE INFORMATION

- It’s the **national dance** of the **Dominican Republic**.
- There are 2 stories behind the **origin** of the dance:
  - a. **Originated with slaves**, chained together, being forced to drag their leg to the beat of a drum while cutting sugar.
  - b. A great hero was wounded in the leg during a **Dominican Republic revolution**. The villagers welcomed him with a victory party. **Out of sympathy**, while dancing everyone felt obliged to limp and drag one foot.
MERENGUE CHARACTERISTICS

- Merengue is a combination of two dances, the African and the French Minuet.
- The original Merengue was not danced by individual couples, but was a circle dance, each man and woman faced each other and holding hands. The didn’t hold each other closely.
- It is now danced in couples, consisting of marching steps and a moderato tempo.
LESSON APPLICATION

Three activities

• Elementary
  ▪ Complete a body diagram of the Merengue

• Middle
  ▪ Write a paragraph that illustrates how and why the Merengue is a blending of three cultures

• High school
  ▪ Design a postcard about the Dominican Republic and the Merengue
WALTZ HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- Originated in Germany from folk dances
- Single couples dance in close embrace in triple time (3/4 time).
  - Originally performed outdoors and included hopping, stamping, and throwing the female partner in the air
  - Became a gliding dance that revolves when it appeared in Bavaria and Austria
- Broke down class divisions
- Considered scandalous and improper because of the close embrace
- Immensely popular in Germany and England during this time
LESSON APPLICATION

Three activities

- Elementary
  - Use art and writing skills to illustrate why the Waltz was controversial for its time

- Middle
  - Create a perspective piece that represents how an 1800’s perspective of the waltz contrasts with a modern perspective on the waltz.

- High school
  - Three short answer questions that connect art and modern day controversies surrounding dance.
Online Survey

- Please provide us information with how we can serve you better by completing this FIVE question survey.


- All handouts, including PPT, can be found at:
  - http://broderickvpa.weebly.com/