

A Level Dance



Miss Major

Matthew Bourn



- Born, 1960 in London.
- 1982 – 85 He studied at Laban with Lea Anderson. Spent a further year with Laban performance company Transitions. Matthew danced professionally for 14 years creating many roles in his own work
- 1987 – co- founded Adventures in Motion Pictures with friends. He was main choreographer. AMP performed "arty farce" modern choreography with a light comic touch.
- 1992 – Nutcracker!
- 1993 – Late Flowering Lust
- 1996 – Swan Lake
- 1997 – Cinderella
- 2001 – The Car Man (a twist on Bizet Carmen)
- 2002 – AMP was renamed New Adventures
- 2011 – Lord of the Flies
- 2012 – Sleeping Beauty
- 2016 – The Red Shoes
- 2016 – he received a knighthood
- 2019 – Romeo & Juliet on young dancers



Choreographic Process

- ★ Listens to the music for a long time so he understands it, sometimes for up to a year before choreographing. "I must love the score I am working with which is why I am drawn to the great ballets by Tchaikovsky."
- ★ Extensive research on the story/influences to the story, e.g. the London blitz for Cinderella.
- ★ Dancers are encouraged to create a personal story for their character. E.g. Swan Lake Queen - resembles Cruella de Vil, and the dancer also watched Joan Crawford movies to get into role.
- ★ Sets improv tasks for dancers and also works with the dancers



Influences on MB

- ★ Cinema and old Hollywood movies *(Alfred Hitchcock horror films Psycho and The Birds from the 1960s) (Brief Encounter 1945 – train station scene in Cinderella)*
- ★ Fred Astaire – Hollywood star/dancer/actor/choreographer
- ★ Busby Berkley – Hollywood choreographer
- ★ George Balanchine – ballet
- ★ Frederick Ashton – ballet
- ★ Pop culture (Swan Lake nightclub scene)





Stylistic Features

-
- ★ Always has a narrative
 - ★ Silent movie – mimetic gestures
 - ★ Pedestrian movement
 - ★ Classical ballet mixed with contemporary
 - ★ Using social dance – jive/lindy in wartime Cinderella, the twist in Swan Lake nightclub
 - ★ Choreographic devices – repetition, motif development (change of direction/dynamic) mirroring, canon and unison
 - ★ Use of design – extravagant, elaborate, bright, over the top & exaggerated.



Matthew Bourne within the ICDSB genre

Post modernism

Bourne is considered “post-modern” as he takes stories/ballets from the past and re-works them to create meaning relevant to a modern contemporary audience.

For example,

Swan Lake – homosexuality and social divide

Sleeping Beauty – vampires and a modern world

Romeo & Juliet – mental health/psychiatric ward

MB QUIZ!

- — —
1. What is his dance company called?
 2. Name four works his company has created.
 3. Write down one thing about his creative process.
 4. How did Fred Astaire influence him?
 5. How did Busby Berkley influence him?
 6. Name two of his stylistic features.
 7. Why is Bourne 's work considered to be post-modern?
 8. What social messages did Swan Lake contain?
 9. What was the modern twist for Sleeping Beauty?
 10. What was the contextual setting for Romeo & Juliet?

Matthew Bourne:



- Key choreographer to provide income to Sadler's Wells as well, thus increasing their revenue, which in turn increases the amount of Arts Council funding (10% of takings). Edward Scissorhands, for example, sold 95,000 tickets and ran for 11 weeks. It has been said that Bourne is a key factor in the financial success of Sadler's Wells, so enabling more artists to be supported and a greater number of works commissioned.

Short Answer Questions

1. Describe how MB has used social themes in his choreography to convey a message to a modern audience. (6 marks)
2. How does MB support the independent contemporary dance scene in Britain through his work? (5 marks)



How else does MB support the ICDSB?

Youth interaction – R&J/LOTF

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToJ5U0aoFJo>

Swan school <https://new-adventures.net/take-part/talent-development/swan-school>

Cygnets school <https://new-adventures.net/news/new-adventures-announce-cygnets-school>

Overture <https://new-adventures.net/take-part/talent-development/overture>



Lord of the Flies

<https://new-adventures.net/lord-of-the-flies#overview>

LOTF handout

LOTF documentary, Part 1 and 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0bD7apRFaU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yZHuExKwTY>

Summer Tasks Matthew Bourne

- 1. Read and LISTEN TO the slides in the Matthew Bourne power point**
- 2. Watch Nutcracker all way through –**
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001gnqj/matthew-bournes-nutcracker>
- 3. Read the handout on Nutcracker to understand the story.**
- 4. Make notes on the set design in both acts – how do they inform the story?**
- 5. Make notes on costume in both acts – how do they inform the story?**
- 6. Watch Swan Lake and read the handout to understand the story.**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvMT5MbIXX4>

Summer Task

▶ **Social Media:** follow these relevant accounts on instagram...

- @mbnewadventures @matthewbourne13 @akramkhancompany
- @sidilarbicherkaoui @rambertdance @rambertschool
- @richardalstondance @marthagrahamdance @mercetrust
- @aleveldanceguides