

## Army On Its Toes Dance Company Playback Dance

### **Performance Outline**

1. Soft Open – dancers openly warming up/flocking in small groups
2. Welcome – Controller introduces the art form, dancers get into place
3. Non-themed Short Forms – Controller takes general stories/emotions from the audience on no particular theme, other than what unites them. (Ex. Breakfast, Getting to the show...)
4. Themed Short Forms- Controller takes themed stories/emotions from the audience based on their life experiences with the theme of the event.
5. Prayers- Controller takes prayer requests from the audience
6. Finale – Controller speaks a final prayer over the audience while the dancers do a grande flock to wrap up the event.

### **Flocking**

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Dancers step forward into a 3 person wedge or 4 person diamond formation to create clear points for flocking leaders. Dancers flock together depicting the emotion the teller has expressed.

**Variations**     **Grande Flock** – All dancers flock together, limitless in number

**Pop Ups**- Whoever is NOT leading pops up or out of the flock for a moment of solo work, while still staying as a part of the formation

**Run Aways**- Whoever is NOT leading runs away from the flock formation entirely for a moment of solo work

### **Pairs (Straight)**

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Essentially, this structure consists of two separate yet simultaneous pairs of flockers. Four dancers step forward into a diamond formation. Adjacent partners work together, flocking, to depict two contrasting emotions. Beginning in a pose with group A low to the ground and group B higher up, dancers work together to ensure their movement and levels are always in contrast. They create a final pose, potentially as one unit, before ending the piece.

Variation     **Transformational** If a prayer is expressed that the two contrasting emotions be transformed into one positive emotion, this structure can morph into unison flocking towards the end.

### **Self-Reflection**

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Two dancers mirror one another (cheating out slightly), depicting the negative emotion. As the movement progresses, dancer A breaks away from the mirror, leaving dancer B to continue *mirroring* alone. Dancer A walks around the mirror, has a moment of solo dance, then rejoins the mirror, but now, Dancer B is transformed- mirroring Dancer A's new, positive emotion.

### **Contact Improv**

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Two dancers improvise together continuing a constant point of connection to entangle their bodies.

Variation      **Leading** Dancer A leads dancer B's movement by guiding them with their hands/body. Dancer A is in control and B is the follower.

**Shared** Both dancers equally share the give and take of leading and following, always connecting with each other.

### **Echo**

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This structure is used to depict four facets of one emotion, or four elements of a story. This involves four dancers (A, B, C, D), and ultimately creates a diagonal formation utilizing cannon.

Four dancers step forward. Dancer A then walks the furthest down stage and begins a repetitive movement, lets call this movement 1. Once movement 1 is established, Dancer B joins in but stands slightly upstage of A, thus beginning the creation of a diagonal formation. As Dancer C joins in (standing slightly upstage of B) Dancer A creates a new repetitive motion; movement 2. So on and so forth, this pattern continues: a new dancer joins, while Dancer A creates a new movement – the movement ripples through the group.

To end, Dancer A will continue repeating a final movement (movement 4) until all the dancers are repeating it together. They freeze to finish.

### **Fluid Sculpture**

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Four dancers stand ready upstage center. One at a time, each dancer steps forward doing a unique repetitive movement. As each dancer joins, they connect to the group, touching physically in some way, but repeating their own separate movement with the goal of capturing the many facets of the story/emotions shared by the teller. Once they are all in – they repeat a few more times then come to a frozen position to finish.

Variation      **Transformational Fluid Sculpture** If the teller has shared a transitional story from one emotion to another, the fluid sculpture can be tailored to the first emotion then once all the dancers are in, they together transition to the second emotion in their own unique way. This means they will have created two unique Fluid Sculptures before freezing at the end.

### **Solos**

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At any time, a dancer can break away from the group and perform a solo.

**Controller Tips:**

1. "What would it look like if your prayer was answered?"
2. "How did that make you feel?"
3. look to dancers if they need more info

**General Tips:**

- Connect to the Holy Spirit right away, listening to each story using *His* ears.
- Honor the teller, tell their story and nothing more.
- Weirder is better. Don't try to create technical/traditional dance movement. Explore movements that spur from feelings.
- Dancers stand/kneel to the side if you aren't being utilized.
- Dancers can exit and enter as different characters/feelings...
- Be ready to pray with the teller one on one