



Benesh Movement Notation: Score Reading for Dancers

An award delivered and examined in weekly lessons over two years at vocational schools and colleges by Benesh International.

The programme aims to:

- provide an education Benesh Movement Notation (BMN) which complements physical performance studies and gives students an insight into its use in the professional theatre
- offer a course customised to the specific interests of a school or college. (Following a common first year, the course may focus on subjects such as reading, reading/performing the repertoire of a particular ballet company or choreographer, the recording of students' own choreography, dance from a historical/style-specific point of view, the use of BMN as a stimulus to choreography, etc.)
- allow students to discover the advantages to the performer of becoming BMN-literate
- enable students to use BMN to discover details of choreographic motif and style in ballet repertoire
- enable students to use BMN to record floor patterns and motifs of their own choreography, and
- enable students to follow the layout of a multi-person BMN score, and understand its use in the professional rehearsal process.

Delivery

In weekly one-hour classes, students will follow a structured course. The key text, provided to all students, is Benesh Movement Notation: Score Reading for Dancers. This text is divided into individual lessons which introduce a concept or topic, describe the relevant BMN sign vocabulary, and provide reading and writing exercises to do in class time and as homework.

In consultation with the school or college, the tutor will incorporate the use of notation scores of professional repertoire of interest and relevance to students.

Assessment

Students are assessed both by continuous monitoring and final examination. The examination consists of a theory paper and practical reading test.