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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Dance 2023

91595 Demonstrate understanding of the development of dance in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of the development of dance in Aotearoa/New Zealand.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of the development of dance in Aotearoa/New Zealand.	Demonstrate perceptive understanding of the development of dance in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Use this booklet to answer ONE question from Question Booklet 91595Q. Your sketched and written answers must be completed in ink.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (do not write). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Achievement

TOTAL 03

PLANNING

introduction

- early life
- how black grace started
- formed 1990
- ten other male dancers
- rheumatic fever
- couldn't play sports
- who Neil Ieremia is

1990
- 1970

20

diagnosed
diagnosed

paragraph one

- miori
- created 1999
- traditional Māori & Samoan dance

paragraph two

- crying men
- created 2018
- toxic masculinity
- men are not allowed to cry and have emotions

paragraph three

- handgame
- created 2016
- child abuse
- would hit parts of their bodies they were hit as a child

conclusion

- wider world connect
- paving the way
- the strong impact.

Note: Space is provided on page 7 for diagrams and sketches to be included, if appropriate, in your answer.

Question number: 1

Neil Ieremia, born in 1970, at the age of 20 formed the prestigious dance company known as Black Grace. Black Grace was originally made up of 10 male dancers, specifically of Samoan, Pasific, Māori and New Zealand decent. In 1990 when Black Grace was formed, Neil Ieremia had a vision to pave the way for Pasifica and Māori to dance. Me as a Māori Student into dancing found Black Grace and Ieremia's work to be inspirational. I will specifically look at 3 works of Neil Ieremia's and Black Grace. Minoi, Crying Men and Handgame, and looking more into his early life.

Neil Ieremia didn't have the easiest childhood. Ieremia was diagnosed with rheumatic fever in his early years. This had caused him trouble playing sports and doing this that classified a boy a boy or a man a man. Neil loved to move and dance before he even knew what dancing was. He had had a few jobs before getting into any sort of dancing. He had worked at a local supermarket and later on worked at the bank, but dancing was a new artform he never knew before. He applied at the commonwealth games, Auckland but got rejected. But while applying he got scouted to go Auckland University. While in University he found so many things, the status quo of dance. Many dance schools would only ever teach western

modernised versions of what dance is. All teachers were Pākehā and there were very limited on Pasific and Māori teachers or students. This didn't sit right with Neil and so he was one of the only people to do something about it. He created Black Grace. The name of Black Grace can be broken down to 'Black' meaning strong, powerful and prideful. 'Grace' showing the gracefulness. Implying you can be strong, powerful while also showing grace and it being portrayed in a beautiful way. These values are shown throughout all of Black Grace and Neils works.

Minoi. Minoi was a powerful dance created in 1999, by 10 male dancers all of Pasifica and Māori decent.

This dance was a very memorable part in dance history. Minoi was one of, if not the first, dances to be danced by all Māori and Pasific people and to have culture be incorporated and intertwined with contemporary dance. Minoi was a dance based on traditional Māori and Jamoon dances. Minoi was one of Neils most famous works and was performed at Jacobs Pillow theater and Stage. People from all around the world came to see his work and to see the different dance styles used in the performance. To many, this dance was more than just entertainment. It was a movement. It paved the way for a lot more dance companies to incorporate more traditional and contemporary hybrid dances. Neil took this first step into a new and authentic way of moving your body, in a way that

wasn't just ballet or contemporary strict status quo dance was used to seeing.

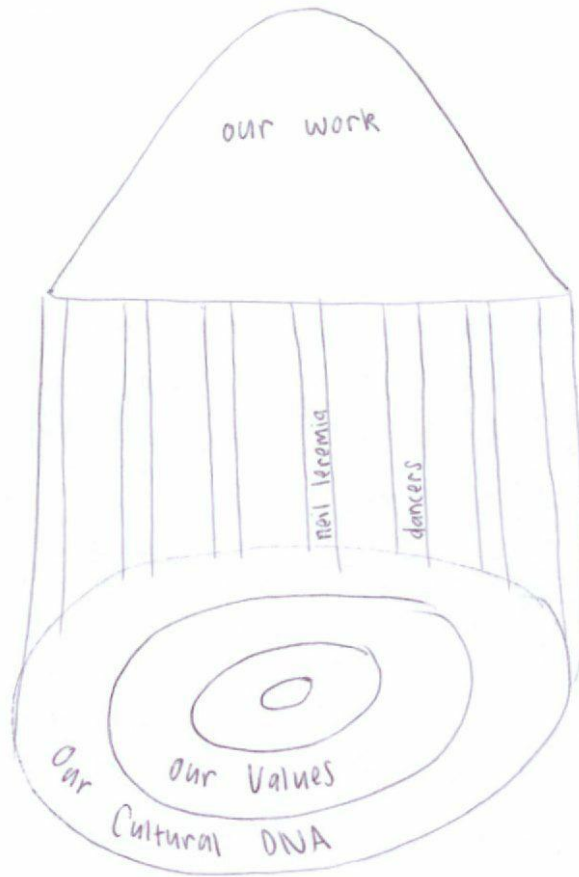
Another one of Neil Jeremias work that ~~great~~ greatly impacted they course of dance to this date is a work called Crying Men. Crying Men was a dance inspired and influenced by the effects of toxic masculinity. It was shown how Men can not cry, feel any sort of emotions and a supposed to hide all their feelings away. How men are supposed to be strong all of the time and crying is not an option for them. This work was created in 2018 and touch so many people. The beautiful way they show hardships in the world. A scene in Crying Men which stood out to me the most was 5 male dancers stood in a box each. All feeling helpless and moving frantically in all directions. This stood out to me because it was a harsh but yet beautiful way of showing each many feeling trapped. Trapped between walls and symbolising the thoughts and struggles of men and how they are 'not allowed' to grieve or cry or feel anything. Having to stick to keeping a mask on and showing 'everything is okay'. Something I love about Neil's work is that he uses repetition a unison through-out all his works, and this shown a lot through crying men.

Handgame. Handgame is a work choreographed by Neil in 2016. This work is about child abuse and Neils childhood and experiences with it. Throughout the dance the dancers hit many parts of their bodies. The hardships of being Māori and Pasifica. They are all sat in chairs in a semi-circle, hitting different parts of their arms, legs, chest, head.

Handgame was a very hard hitting work for many. People who could relate, and people who hated even the thought. Child abuse was and still is a massive issue and Neil wanted to also show his journey while also spreading awareness.

In conclusion, Black Grace has had a great impact on dance in New Zealand and Internationally. Neil Jeremia paved the way for traditional cultural and ~~the~~ contemporary hybrid dances. Black Grace has made a "Work Pillar" called a Fale, which has also helped many other companies with their support, bonding and creating a whanau within a work environment. Black Grace and Neil Jeremias work has helped show many other companies new ways of dance, and creating. Without Neil taking that first step the dance industry and wider world issues would be way further back in peoples minds as it is now. We still have a while to go with racism in the dance industry but Neil made a difference and created a new chance for many up and coming artists.

Sketch on this page if you want to illustrate any part of your answer.
Label the sketch to explain the point(s) you are making.



Black Grace Fale

- every company is made up of a few thing to keep the company alive. using the visual of a fale, Black Grace shows the many important aspects you need to make a working dance company.

Achievement

Subject: Dance

Standard: 91595

Total score: 03

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	A3	<p>The candidate briefly described two dances by an established New Zealand choreographer, including the use of sketching/diagrams to illustrate examples given.</p> <p>The candidate has briefly discussed, with some supporting evidence, how an established New Zealand choreographer has influenced dance in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. There were minor factual inaccuracies, but this has not impacted the response as a whole. Description and discussion of aspects in the question were evident.</p>