

Dance was a part of Cultural Education – El Observador Newspaper

The Nihon Buyo is a dance that could be represented as an act in a play, Why?

The Nihon Buyo is known as a kabuki dance, because was danced in a Kabuki theater. The choreographer taught it to women in big cities as Tokyo and it was taught as a part of cultural education, in the same way flower arrangement, tea ceremony or the calligraphy. Basically, Nihon Buyo is a Kabuki dance.

How the oriental dance is actualized?

Dance is not static, they are represented by humans and is not the same choreography always. Some people think that is the same thing since 300 years, but no. Every artist shape is own artistic dance, and is very important to create new dance with ancient technique. That is what I do.

What movements are repeated in Nihon Buyo? What they mean?

For example, if you and me (hands movements). This is the love symbol. Another one is shy (cover the face with the kimono). We use fans and scarfs to represent others. In the performance we said to the public how and why we use these accessories.

What attire is the right one to represent this dance?

Beside the Kabuki outfit and kimonos, we cover our faces with white make up and our heads with a big wig. We use shorter kimonos for this dance.

How the costume is used to emphasize a symbol?

There are many books what say that every movement, even the gyre of the kimono means something, but no. The occidentals realized that every movements in oriental dance has a meaning. There is some gesture, that mean dairy gesture like comb your hair.

How many traditional dances are still in Japan?

Maybe more than 300, including choreographies. But if you count all the dances that dancers create, is impossible to count. I am talking about the pieces as a work, because is not easy to separate theater dance in the ancient dance. The Noh is the most popular theater in occident, is defined as opera, but I prefer to call it poetry in movement.

Why to you think Japanese Dance is still conserved?

Nowadays there is more recognition to theater style and classic dance from Japan. There was a tie where every new thing coming from USA was good, it was a time where old traditions were not admired. But now we are recovering the conservation sense. There are more young people learning noh and kabuki theater. Nihon buyo is not so popular, but there are many teachers in Japan that teach it to spread the Classic Japanese Dance.