# Dance and the Hollywood Musical

Notes for Teachers

## Background information

This learning package was created as part of a module on Popular Dance. The module was aimed at year 3 undergraduates studying at (FHEQ) level 6 for a BA (Hons) Dance and Culture degree at the University of Surrey in Guildford, United Kingdom.

## Learning package

The resource contains 3 and a half hours of materials for independent learning. These include:

* a set of audio podcasts (with dowloadable transcriptions and audio files),
* links to video clips,
* critical questions with feedback,
* recommended reading.

## Summary

This material focuses on the role of dance in the classic Hollywood musical. The materials aim at discussing and critically evaluating Jane Feuer's thesis on 'mass art as folk art' within the musical genre and consider its Marxist underpinnings.

## Aims

1. To understand concepts and practices of popular dance on screen contexts.
2. To examine Hollywood musicals through cultural theory perspectives.

## Learning outcomes

1. Understanding of the production, transmission and consumption of dance as presented in Hollywood musicals.
2. Critical knowledge of relevant cultural theory appropriate to the analysis of dance in screen contexts.
3. Ability to articulate independent responses to examples of dance in musicals in different media (readings, podcasts, videos) using an appropriate register of academic language.

## Essential reading

Dyer, Richard. 'I seem to find the happiness I seek': Heterosexuality and Dance in the Musical in Thomas, H. (ed) *Dance , Gender and Culture.* London: Macmillan, 1993, pp. 49-65.

Feuer, Jane. *The Hollywood Musical*. London: Macmillan, 1982. Chapter 1 “Mass art as folk art”.

Note that a previous version of this chapter is available online.

Feuer, Jane. “Mass art as folk art”, *Jump Cut. A Review of Contemporary Media*, n. 23, oct 1980, pp.23-25. Available at: <http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/onlinessays/JC23folder/MusicalsFeuer.html> (opens in a new window)

(See a complete reading list in separated document)