



Writing dance and Movement analysis: Presentation of tools created by Rudolf Laban (1879-1958)

PRESENTATION OF THE TWO-PART WEBINAR

At the start of the 20th century, several tools for analyzing movement responding to various motivations were developed in Europe by Rudolf Laban (1879-1958), choreographer, teacher and theorist. These tools have in common the same curiosity for exploring and observing the movements of the human body.

Kinetography (writing system for movement), Choreutic (studies of the harmony of the body in space) or Eukinetic (studies of dynamic variations of the human body) are the three disciplines that have been developed in several European countries, then the United States and Asia. These disciplines are presented today under the term of Laban studies.

There is on one side Kinetography or Labanotation, dedicated to structural notation, and on the other side all the other fields of movement analysis according to Laban, gathered under the term of Laban Movement Analysis. In the UK, the term Choreology is also used.

Developed to provide dance with solid analytical tools, these disciplines later developed applications and connections with other fields: anthropology, ethnology, research, education, robotics or relationships with the healthcare community. Notation is an analysis of movement that improves our practice. It also helps to create a repertoire, a heritage that can be reinvested by people from another time or another culture.

This webinar, led by Raphaël Cottin, dancer, choreographer and specialist in Kinetography, will be presented in 2 parts:

- Day one: one hour will be devoted to the general presentation of these subjects and their genesis (Historical Survey and presentation of the Laban "world")
- Day two: one hour will be devoted to the presentation of Kinetography (movement notation), its main principles (including some readings and practical exercises behind your screen!) and its applications;

Each time, about 20 minutes will be reserved for questions and discussions, under the moderation of the Belgrade Dance Institute.

Organized by the Belgrade Dance Institute (institut za umetničku igru), with support of Teatroskop, a regional program for performing arts, initiated in 2011 by the French institute and Ministry of culture.

KINETOGRAPHY LABAN

Founding figure of modern dance and dance research, Rudolf Laban was born in Bratislava in 1879 to Hungarian parents; he died in England, where he had settled in 1958.

His career was mainly in Germany, from the 1920's until 1936, where he held important positions in the world of dance before being removed by Goebbels at the time of the Berlin Olympics. He then left for England, where he settled in 1938. He continued his research and teaching there until his death in 1958.

As a teacher, he will count among his pupils Mary Wigman and Kurt Jooss (himself professor of the German choreographer Pina Bausch). His philosophical and theoretical reflection on human movement will lead him to design throughout his life several "systems" as Choreutic - study of the body in space, Eukinetic (Effort-Shape) - study of the dynamics of movement, and Kinetography, a system for transcribing movement, the principles of which will be explained in *Schrifttanz*, a work published in 1928 on the occasion of the 2nd international congress of dancers in Essen, Germany.

In fields such as dance, mime, ethnology, the advantages of using movement writing like Kinetography Laban to analyze different aspects of movement are manifold. It is a working tool, comparative among others; it offers the possibility of founding a "literature" of the movement and it can provide real legal protection.

After Laban's death in 1958, his successors in the field of Kinetography met in the International Council of Kinetography Laban (ICKL), still active today. This organization has a hundred members from about twenty countries and meets every two years on a different continent to discuss the practice of movement notation, present applications of notation and be informed of international news of this discipline.

The last conference took place in Mexico in 2019; the next one will take place in summer 2021 at the Hungarian Dance Academy in Budapest.

Kinetography is taught today in Hungary, Germany, England, United States, Mexico or China ; a High Training is proposed in Paris, France, at the Conservatoire supérieur de musique et de danse.

Prior to the 2 webinar sessions, you can watch this 18 minutes webdoc, in English, dedicated to Kinetography :

<https://www.numeridanse.tv/en/themas/webdocs/write-movement>

This will allow you to have a first approach to this discipline and to discover this field in several ways. In addition to this text of presentation, that can be distribute to everyone before the sessions, you can also share the reading examples that will be included in the slide show (to have them "in real, in your hands" during the presentation).

The people who were at the meeting on the 18th of May have also access to the slideshow presented there.

After the presentation, you will have access:

- to the presentation recorded by the French Institute and available online;
- to the slideshow in .ppt and .pdf format.

We also invite you to share your comments or questions, even after the sessions, with the Belgrade Dance Institute or directly to Raphaël Cottin at lapoetiquedessignes@gmail.com

