
How to use this form to write the perfect concert review...

- *Don't give a book report! You don't need to share details of where the dancers went on stage, who entered when, who danced with who. Don't recount the events on stage. **WE WANT TO HEAR HOW THE EVENTS ON STAGE MADE YOU FEEL, THINK, ETC.***
- *Don't review every piece in the show - that's crazy! Pick one piece to write about – or if you are an over achiever, pick two. **WE WANT TO HEAR AN IN-DEPTH RESPONSE ABOUT ONE OF THE PIECES YOU SAW! NOT A FEW DETAILS ABOUT A TON OF THINGS.***
- *There are five sections below: (1) Thoughts Beforehand, (2) First Impressions, (3) About the Piece, (4) Afterwards, (5) Connections. Each section has several sub-sections. **PICK 1 SUB-SECTION FOR EACH OF THE FIVE SECTIONS AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.** If you are an over-achiever, you can pick more than one sub-section. But it's not vital. The most important thing is to take what you saw and reflect. The questions in each subsection will help you do that.*
- **BE SURE TO WRITE IN FULL SENTENCES. YOU CAN REPHRASE OR EXPAND THE QUESTIONS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS.** Remember: the reader doesn't necessarily know the questions you are answers so be sure to write with full, well-rounded statements.
- *Before you start answering the sub-section questions, please include a paragraph with the following:*
 - **THE NAME OF THE CONCERT YOU ATTENDED**
 - **THE NAME OF THE COMPANY PERFORMING**
 - **THE DATE**
 - **WHO YOU ATTENDED THE SHOW WITH**
 - **THE NAME OF THE PIECE YOU ARE REVIEWING (REMEMBER, DON'T REVIEW EVERYTHING YOU SEE. PICK ONE OR TWO PIECES!)**

1: Thoughts Beforehand

What do you know about this concert?

- *How many pieces are there?*

- *Who are the choreographers?*
- *Is there a general theme for the concert?*
 - *What is that theme?*
 - *Do you know a lot about this theme?*
 - *Does it make you more excited to see the concert?*

Have you heard about this dance company/performance group before?

- *What do you know about them?*
- *How many dancers/performers are you going to see?*
- *What is their training/background?*

Why did you choose to attend this concert?

- *What do you hope to see on stage?*
- *What kind of dance/performance are you looking to experience?*
 - *Do you want to be entertained? Laugh? Cry? Be encouraged to think? To rebel? To reflect?*
- *From what you know about the company and/or things you've seen in the past, what do you expect the concert to be like?*

Were there any program notes, information, or background details that you read before the show started that intrigued you?

- *What was of interest?*
- *Did this information make you more excited to see the concert? Less excited?*
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2: First Impressions

What did you think of the title?

- *Did the title of the dance make you think of something specific?*
- *Did it catch your interest?*
- *What did you think the dance would be like based on the title?*

What was the first thing that popped into your head when this piece started?

- *What were your first impressions?*
 - *Did you like what you were seeing? Dislike?*

- Why?
- What were your first impressions of the costumes?
- Of the lighting?
- Were there set pieces/stage? Did you like or dislike them?
- What did you think about the movement vocabulary?
 - The physicality of the dancers?
 - The use of emotion?

Did the piece catch your interest?

- What did you enjoy? What was of interest
 - Why?
- If the piece didn't catch your interest, why? What kept you from getting invested/interested in the piece?

Did the piece remind you of anything?

- As the piece started on stage, did you find yourself making connections to other parts of your life?
 - Relationships, emotions, experiences?
- Was the piece totally abstract?
 - Did you like the abstract nature of what you were seeing?
 - Did it bother you that there wasn't more literal moments/meaning?
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3- About the Piece

How would you describe the movement style?

- Did you like this style?
 - Are the dancers trained proficiently in this movement?
 - Do the dancers look well-rehearsed? Too rehearsed?
 - Is this the kind of movement style/dancing you expected?
- Did the movement remind you of anything?
- Was the movement style unique? Different?
 - What made it different/stand out?
- Can you see how the dancers' training and experience was used on stage?

Were there other elements to the dance that you weren't expecting: text, narration, acting, video, props, etc.

- *How did these elements add to or take away from the overall success of the piece?*
- *Did you like the added elements?*
- *Were they used seamlessly with the dance/action happening on stage?*
- *Did they help expand/tell the story or themes of the dance?*
 - *Were they a distraction?*

What choreographic structures were used in the piece?

- *How was the piece structured?*
 - *Was it made up of sections? Was it all one piece without any parts?*
 - *Were there solos, duets, trios?*
 - *How did the dancers interact with each other?*
 - *Did the piece use theme and variation?*
 - *Did you see any choreographic elements at work that you are familiar with: cannon, counterpoint, use of time, space, energy?*
 - *Did you like the way these elements/tools were used?*
 - *How did they help create an experience for you as a viewer?*
 - *Did they distract you from the meaning/experience of the piece as a whole?*

How did the music impact your overall experience?

- *Did you like the music used?*
 - *Was it one song? Several?*
 - *Did the choreographer work with a sound score?*
 - *How did the music help create a sense of space, place, and environment for the dance?*
 - *Did the music make it harder to feel as sense of space, place or environment?*
 - *How did the music help the dancers connect to the movement? To the physicality of their performances?*
 - *Did the music help complete the overall experience of the dance?*

4 – Afterwards

Was the piece what you expected?

- *Did the piece progress and end like you thought it would?*

- *What took you by surprise?*
- *Did you feel that the piece came to a natural conclusion?*
- *Did you like that conclusion?*
 - *Did you feel that the story/experience was a complete one?*
 - *Were you left wanting more? Less?*
- *Having seen the piece, what do you think of the title? Do you see the connection?*
 - *Did the program notes seem apparent in the piece you just witnessed?*
 - *How did the program notes color/effect what you saw?*
 - *Were those notes necessary to your enjoyment of the piece?*
 - *Did they add to your experience? Take away from it?*

Did you have any thoughts after the piece was over?

- *Did any of the ideas, concepts, images you saw in the piece stay with you afterwards?*
 - *What were they? Why do you think they remained with you?*
- *Did you have any questions when the piece was over?*
 - *What were they?*
 - *How would you answer them?*

Did you like the whole arc/layout/landscape of the piece from beginning, middle, to end?

- *Did all of the elements of the dance come together to create a fully realized experience for you?*
 - *Did you see a beginning, middle, and end to the piece?*
 - *Did this make sense to you?*
 - *Did you feel that the piece developed in an organic way? Inorganic?*
 - *Did you like the way the piece progressed?*
- *What stood out as being the most effective parts of the over all experience?*
- *What didn't add to your overall experience? What distracted from it?*

How did the dancers' performance/movement effect your overall impression of the piece?

- *Did the movement style work in context of the over all arc/layout of the dance?*
- *From what you know about the dance company, did this piece showcase their talents?*
 - *What is the kind of work you expected to see?*
 - *If not, what took you by surprise?*
- *How did the movement style add to that overall layout?*
- *Did you see changes in the movement style, quality, and performance techniques depending on how far along you were in the dance?*
 - *Did these changes add to the emotional experience you had watching?*

- *Did the physicality and movement qualities you saw add up to help create a full experience for you as a audience member?*
- *Did this concert change your ideas/pre-held beliefs about this company?*
 - *What do you think about company/dancers now, after seeing the show?*

5- Connections

What were the relationships in this piece?

- *Did you see relationships between dancers that mirrored relationships in your own life?*
- *Did you find yourself responding to the dance based on your own experiences?*
- *Did you see characters and/or emotions that you deal with in your own life?*
 - *How did the dance reflect your own experience with people?*

Did the dance invoke a certain emotion for you?

- *What was this emotion and where do you find it in your own life?*
- *Did you feel that the choreographer did a good job of representing this emotion?*
- *Do you think the choreographer was really exploring that emotion or was it just how you interpreted the dance?*

Did the dance remind you of anything in your own life?

- *What metaphors did you see in the movement, choreography, or staging of the piece?*
- *What was one of these metaphors and how do you see it in your own life?*
- *Did you think the dance worked well as a symbolic language? Did you find it easy to respond to that language? Hard to respond?*
- *How did experiences in your own life color/effect the metaphors and symbols you saw on stage?*