

CUSTOMS

There is an old Spanish proverb that says "to change a custom is as bad as death."

In Andalucía particularly repetition & reversion of certain customs are extremely important. They give confidence, relieve anxiety and release the ^{asymmetry} of choice. They also establish boundaries from village to village.

So while movements of the dance, patterns & even the music may be identical there is always some small thing that makes the dance from one village to another, different.

NEED for AUTHENTICITY

It is therefore very important to know as much as possible about the meanings & origins of the steps you may want to use as part of your choreography. This helps to give your work authenticity. If we do not have this knowledge the dance can be a disaster. For ex. the Sword Dance of Buzica is not a fighting dance, in spite of its name.

Authenticity is important in your choreography because it is your ^{connection} link to the Remote Past.

Symbols in Dance The Circle

represented the wheel of life

was a protective defense against evil spirits

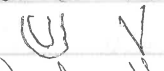
If you were choreographing something from Mallorca you would draw a circle around you & ^{is done} dance in a ~~the~~ circle sunwise.

In Catalunya the circle for the Sardana represents the Sun, & starts to the left direction of the Sun.

Amongst the gypsies - witches still use the circle as part of their rites.

ABOUT the ARMS

③ In Andalusia the arms are held differently in the dance than ~~other regions of Spain~~. ~~which in some~~ folk dances arms ^{held over head} ~~emulate~~ the crescent moon & the horns of the bull. elbows are not bent. DEMONSTRATE


~~But~~ elbows are ^{bent} absolutely essential in Andalusian dances that use the arms. This influence came from Persia many many centuries ago. The arms are curved genders R masc, L fem. Movement - arm circles down & around & back up to make a complete circle - NB circle. Wrists must never hide the face.


DEMONSTRATE

Dancers have their own language. There are some unspoken phrases expressed solely through dance movement

Invitation Movement

start with feet together

move left foot behind right in a diagonal line

Raise both arms  open hand

curve middle finger down

Step back placing R foot behind left at an angle

Bring both arms down, place hands behind back

 R

"I give you" - raise both arms shoulder level
Jaw in front do wrist rotation 2 or 3 times then stop on an outward motion
palms will be exposed (not used in gypsy dance because of palms & bad luck).

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The Hat