



Teaching Cuban Casino Dance with Authentic Cultural Background

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How to cite this paper: Yaofei Huo. (2023) Teaching Cuban Casino Dance with Authentic Cultural Background. *Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science*, 7(8), 1662-1665.
DOI: 10.26855/jhass.2023.08.033

Received: July 22, 2023

Accepted: August 18, 2023

Published: September 15, 2023

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Abstract

The Cuban Casino dance is a dance originating in Havana that originated in the 1940s. It is a fusion of African and Spanish cultures, showing the rich cultural background of Cuba. The steps and musical rhythms of Casino dance are very unique, giving a feeling of energy and passion. In Cuba, the casino dance is a very popular social dance. This dance is often performed at parties, social occasions and dance halls. Casino dance has a wealth of steps and techniques, including basic steps, turns, spins, and movements in concert with your partner. The dancers show the beauty and charm of the dance through the coordination and cooperation of the body. Moreover, Casino dance is not just an entertainment activity, it also carries the history and culture of the Cuban people. In the dance, one can feel the enthusiasm, energy and optimism of the Cuban people. The Casino dance has also become a part of Cuban culture, representing the identity and pride of the Cuban people. This paper discusses the historical background of Cuban culture, the origin, development and characteristics of Casino dance. In order to better understand the cultural background and characteristics of Cuban casino dance, master its basic steps and performance styles, feel the unique charm of Cuban culture, and at the same time provide reflection and inspiration for cross-cultural communication and cultural development.

Keywords

Authentic culture, Professor, Cuban Casino Dance

Introduction

As one of the most representative traditional dances in Cuba, Cuban Casino has a wide influence in the world. Casino dance is a passionate and energetic dance, with a strong sense of rhythm and unique dance steps, which can well show the diversity and uniqueness of Cuban culture. It can be said that it is both a musical style and a dance, and it is the most perfect art form combining music and dance. Salsa has never stopped developing and innovating from the beginning to the present. She witnessed the historical process and cultural form of modern Latin America, including the United States, and Salsa herself is a hybrid. Many American countries with the Caribbean as the center have contributed and influenced Salsa to a greater or lesser extent today, but its roots-in Cuba-need not be disputed. Nowadays, Salsa is almost all over the world, and it has conquered people who love life all over the world with its unique charm. With the development of Salsa, different styles and forms of expression have been formed. Based on this, this paper aims to explore the cultural background and characteristics of Cuban casino dance, deeply understand the historical evolution of Cuban culture and the origin and development of casino dance, and feel the unique charm of Cuban culture.

1. The traditional Cuban casino dance

1.1 The basic elements of dance

Traditional Cuban Casino dance has the following basic elements: (1) A firm sense of rhythm-Casino dance is a dance with extremely strong sense of rhythm, mainly based on beating drums. The basic dance beat is a group of two beats, and dancers usually change their steps in the direction of the fourth beat. (2) Footsteps-Footsteps are one of the most important elements in Cassino's dance, which are formed by the ever-changing Salsa direction, complicated pace and rapid acceleration. By using artistic means such as jumping and transformation, the dancer's personality and charm are displayed in the form of joyful, rhythmic and fast-changing dance steps. (3) Body movements-There are not only rich and varied foot elements, but also rich body movements and postures in Casino dance. Dancers can use various parts of their bodies to express music and emotions, such as twisting their bodies and raising their arms. (4) Partner cooperation-Casino dance is a kind of two-person dance, which requires close cooperation between dancers, such as clasping hands and bending arms. Dancers need to cooperate with each other in the process of dancing to achieve a high degree of tacit understanding (Ke Yang, 2019).

1.2 The basic pace of dance

In the traditional Cuban casino dance, there are the following basic steps: (1) Forward and backward steps-the dancer takes one foot forward and then puts the other foot in place. Then, repeat this step, but this time takes one foot back. (2) Left and right steps-the dancer takes one foot to the left and then puts the other foot in the same place. Then, repeat this step, but this time takes one foot to the right. (3) Lock Step-The dancer takes one foot forward, then puts the other foot behind the previous foot, and repeats this step. (4) Step clamping-A step clamping consists of stepping one foot to the left, and stepping the other heel next to the front foot in the next beat. Then step your front foot to the left, and then touch your front foot with your back foot and return to your position. (5) Continuous spinning and lying down to recognize the rotation-the dancer rotates left or right from a basic step, and at the same time coordinates the rhythm of the steps with the turning of the body. These basic steps are usually presented in the form of dancing alone or in pairs. Dancers can create more colorful dance styles and rhythms by changing and combining these basic steps.

1.3 Dance music selection and the meaning of song lyrics

Cuban Casino Dance is a Latin dance originated from Cuba, and its music selections and lyrics bear rich cultural background and historical significance. In terms of music selection, the music commonly used in Cuban casino dance includes Cuban traditional music, salsa music, Latin jazz and so on. Among them, Cuban traditional music is one of the most important music sources of Casino dance, which includes Cuban traditional folk music, Cuban thunder music and so on. This music usually use traditional Cuban musical instruments, such as Cuban drums, Cuban xylophone, etc., which have strong Cuban customs and cultural characteristics. Salsa music is a Latin dance music originated from Cuba. Its rhythm is bright and enthusiastic, which is very suitable for the jumping and rotating movements of Casino dance. Latin jazz, on the other hand, is a style that combines Latin music and jazz. Its music rhythm is complex and varied, which is very suitable for the change and turning point of Casino dance. In terms of song lyrics, the song lyrics commonly used in Cuban casino dance also carry rich cultural background and historical significance. For example, a classic casino dance "Guantanamera" is a folk song originated from Cuba, and the lyrics describe the beautiful scenery and the hospitality of the people in Cuba. This song is usually used to express the emotion and interaction between dancers in casino dance. In addition, there is a song called "El Cuarto de Tula", which describes the life scene of a Cuban rural family, and the lyrics are full of praise and longing for family, friendship and love. This song is usually used to express the feelings and emotional communication between dancers in casino dance. In short, the music selections and lyrics of Cuban Casino dance bear rich cultural background and historical significance. They are not only the accompaniment and background of the dance, but also an important part of the dance culture (Ma Yisha, 2011).

2. Cuba's Casino goes to the international market

2.1 The emergence and development in the international arena

Cuban casino dance is a Latin dance originated from Cuba, which is characterized by fast steps and changeable

body movements and is considered to be very sexy and dynamic. Its appearance and development in the international market mainly have the following stages: (1) Origin and spread: Cuban casino dance originated in the inland mountainous areas of Cuba, spread to cities with the migration of residents, and began to enter the international market at the beginning of the 20th century, becoming one of the most popular dances at that time. (2) Evolution of dance style: With the passage of time, Cuban casino dance has evolved into different dance styles through the integration with other dance forms, such as the faster "fast Cuban casino" and the sweeter and more soothing "modern Cuban casino", which has continuously enriched its manifestations in the international market. (3) Promotion in the international market: With the increase of dance performances and competitions, the related dance skills and coaches have also increased around the world. The Cuban government is also promoting the popularity of this dance in the international market, and regards it as a sustainable cultural product to promote the development of the local tourism industry. (4) Recognized by the World Dance Competition: Cuban Casino Dance has gradually become one of the hot items on the stage of the World Dance Competition because of its dynamic, unique and charming. It is considered as a kind of dance with low difficulty, so non-professionals and dance lovers can also practice and participate in the competition (Zeng Qiao, 2018).

2.2 The influence and status of international dance competitions

Cuban Cassino dance has entered the international market, which has been recognized and influenced by international dance competitions. The following are its status and influence in international competitions: (1) Cuban Casino dance occupies a place in common international competitions, such as the World Latin Dance Championship and the International Casino Dance Competition, and is popular because of its fast pace, dynamic and fresh dance style. (2) The dance posture, steps and music rhythm of Cuban Casino dance are very unique, which makes more dance lovers choose it. In various dance competitions and large-scale dance parties, Cuban Casino dancers always show their unique charm and fascinate the audience. (3) In international dance competitions, the performance of Cuban Casino dance is getting more and more wonderful, with great characteristics and charm, which makes Cuba enjoy higher popularity and more praise at the same time. (4) Cuban Casino dance is very exciting, attracting many tourists and audiences from all over the world to enjoy this unique performance form, which further promotes the development of Casino dance in the international market. Therefore, the status and influence of Cuban casino dance in international competitions are constantly improving, and more people fall in love with this dance, which also promotes the development of Cuban cultural exchanges (Wang Wei, 2019).

3. The teaching methods and effects of authentic culture

3.1 The importance of authentic culture teaching

When teaching Cuban casino dance, the teaching of authentic cultural background is very important, because it can help students better understand and appreciate the cultural background and historical origin of this dance. First of all, authentic cultural background teaching can help students understand the origin and development history of Cuban casino dance. This kind of dance originated from social dance and Latin dance in Cuba and is an important part of Cuban culture. By understanding the historical origin of Cuban Cassino dance, students can better understand the cultural background and significance of this dance. Secondly, authentic cultural background teaching can help students better understand the steps and gestures of Cuban Casino dance. This kind of dance has very unique dance steps and postures, including many elements of Cuban culture. By understanding these elements, students can better understand and appreciate the beauty and artistic value of this dance. Finally, authentic cultural background teaching can help students better experience the atmosphere and emotion of Cuban casino dance. This kind of dance is very enthusiastic, dynamic and rhythmic, and it is a very important part of Cuban culture. By understanding the background and emotion of Cuban culture, students can better experience the atmosphere and emotion of this dance, so as to better understand and appreciate this dance. In a word, authentic cultural background teaching is very important for teaching Cuban casino dance. It can help students better understand the background and historical origin of Cuban culture, better understand and appreciate the beauty and artistic value of this dance, and also better experience the atmosphere and emotion of Cuban culture.

3.2 Authentic culture teaching methods and strategies

In order to teach Cuban Casino dance with authentic cultural background, the teaching methods and strategies

can include the following aspects: (1) Before teaching Cuban Casino dance, we can introduce the historical and cultural background, including the origin of music, clothing, emotion and dance, and even introduce some legends and stories, which can make students and dancers understand the perceptual connotation and cultural background of dance more deeply (Lainka, 2019). (2) In the process of teaching Cuban Casino dance, we can integrate into the surrounding cultural background, such as the culture, literature and movies of the Grand Canal in Cuba, so that dancers can have a deeper understanding of the local cultural characteristics, which can make Cuban Casino dance more unique and more ornamental. (3) When teaching Cuban casino dance, you can use relevant local languages and songs, which will not only make it easier for students and dancers to master and understand the relevant dance steps and performance methods, but also enhance their perceptual knowledge and experience of local culture. (4) In addition to teaching Cuban Casino dance, cultural exhibitions other than dancing can also let students and dancers know more about Cuban culture, such as local food, handicrafts, traditional festivals and so on, which can enhance their understanding and experience of Cuban culture. In short, in the process of teaching Cuban casino dance with authentic cultural background, we should pay attention to the cultural inheritance and promotion, and comprehensively use various teaching methods and strategies such as the introduction of historical and cultural background, the integration of surrounding cultural background, the use of language and songs, so that students and dancers can better understand the connotation of Cuban culture and pass it on (Wang Bin, 2010).

4. Conclusion

To sum up, authentic cultural background teaching can help students and dancers better understand and inherit the essence of Cuban culture and promote the development and inheritance of traditional culture. By studying Cuban Cassino dance, we can not only appreciate the artistic charm of dance, but also deeply understand Cuba's cultural and historical heritage. Teaching Cuban Casino Dance with authentic cultural background can better spread the characteristics of Cuban culture to the world and bring new opportunities for the development of local tourism industry. In short, only by combining authentic cultural background with dance teaching can we better promote and inherit Cuban Casino dance, make Cuban local culture more widely recognized and spread around the world, and finally realize the prosperity and development of cultural diversity.

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