Research on the Technique of Figure Shaping in Dance Performance Art

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Abstract: Dance performance art primarily utilizes human movements to shape and present character portrayals. In live stage performances, makeup design and choreographic vocabulary can be employed to showcase both the inner and outer aspects of characters, thereby enhancing dancers' comprehensive skills. This paper elaborates on key factors influencing the effectiveness of character portrayal in dance performances. Through professional research and analysis, it systematically explores various techniques for creating compelling character images. These techniques include crafting unique dance scenarios that capture the essence of the narrative, scientifically utilizing props and costumes to enhance visual storytelling, strengthening personality development through nuanced movement patterns, refining makeup designs to reflect character traits, and exploring stage background elements to set the mood and context. By integrating these approaches, dancers can significantly improve their ability to create authentic character portrayals. Ultimately, this leads to more refined and impactful performances that deeply engage audiences and convey powerful emotional and narrative content.

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of dance performance art, there has been a growing emphasis on character portrayal. In contemporary dance, artists are no longer merely presenting movements but are tasked with creating numerous distinctive characters that resonate emotionally with audiences. This shift requires dancers to delve deeper into the psychological and emotional layers of their roles, transforming themselves into compelling and believable figures on stage. However, current dance performances still face significant challenges. Certain issues among performers, such as a lack of depth in character development or inconsistent portrayal, negatively impact artistic expression and hinder the enhancement of performance quality. These shortcomings can lead to performances that fail to fully engage the audience or convey the intended narrative and emotional impact.

To address these challenges and elevate dance performances to new heights, greater attention should be paid to character development through innovative stage design techniques. By crafting immersive scenarios that envelop the audience in the world of the performance, dancers can more effectively convey the intricacies of their characters. This involves not only refining choreography and makeup design but also integrating elements such as dynamic lighting, interactive sets, and multimedia projections to create a holistic experience. Through these techniques, the overall artistic

value of dance performances can be significantly enhanced, allowing artists to connect with audiences on a deeper level and leave a lasting impression.

2. The main factors affecting the effect of character image shaping in dance performance art

2.1 Influence character

In dance performance art, the precise portrayal of characters 'inner personalities is essential. The primary factors shaping and altering a character's inner traits originate from the character themselves. A dancer's nuanced interpretation of a stage character's personality directly determines the performance's effectiveness. For instance, when a dancer accurately grasps a character's psychological state and personality traits, combined with appropriate expressions and movements, they can skillfully convey emotional shifts like sorrow or joy on stage.

This enhances the character's depth and vitality, guiding the audience into the emotional world of each role. Different dance narratives can precisely reveal a character's inner nature. When facing various artistic scenarios in dance performances, dancers precisely adjust their body posture, movement intensity, and performance tempo. By mastering these elements, they comprehensively showcase a character's inner world, thereby enhancing the appeal of stage performances.

2.2 Influence on external image

When analyzing the key factors influencing stage performers 'external image in dance art, attention should focus on facial expressions, body posture, and costume design. On one hand, dancers' expressive changes effectively convey characters 'emotions—joy, anger, sorrow, and happiness—guiding audiences to understand their emotional fluctuations and inner transformations. Meanwhile, body posture not only reflects physical characteristics but also reveals personality traits. Through arm positioning, shoulder drooping, and back tilt in various stage settings, performers vividly portray emotional states and inner worlds, enhancing character portrayal[1].

On the other hand, costume design plays a crucial role in shaping performers' external image. Diverse ethnic costumes and styles showcase characters 'personalities, social status, and backgrounds, laying a solid foundation for establishing emotional tones. In the dance performance "The Scholar with the Paper Fan", performers entering the stage wearing white robes and holding paper fans immediately present an elegant scholar's demeanor to the audience. This approach effectively immerses viewers in the performance within a short time frame, significantly enhancing the effectiveness of the artistic presentation.

3. Effective techniques of character image shaping in dance art performance

3.1 Create a unique dance situation to create a suitable atmosphere for stage performance

In dance performance art, creating distinctive and vivid dance scenarios is essential to help dancers better portray characters and enhance the stage atmosphere. When crafting artistic scenarios, musicians should be actively employed to establish unique musical contexts. Through musical elements, performers can not only showcase characters' unique emotions but also demonstrate psychological changes via shifting melodies, thereby improving character portrayal effectiveness. To create immersive dance environments, advanced technologies like holographic imaging and projection systems are integrated into virtual stage environments, enhancing visual realism and three-dimensionality. Innovative lighting designs using various light types illuminate characters, enriching visual effects. For instance, when performing "Dunhuang Flying Apsaras" (a traditional

dance piece), dancers wear costumes and props that vividly depict the "Dunhuang Flying Apsaras" imagery, enhancing performance depth.

To recreate this unique dance scene, appropriate lighting and music are combined with the performance theme, allowing audiences to intuitively experience "Western Regions charm" while improving character portrayal effectiveness. In order to guide the audience "into" the scene of "Dunhuang Flying Apsaras", information technology is scientifically used, and multimedia technology and projection technology are applied to the stage to display the splendid Dunhuang in front of the audience. After fully experiencing a large number of cultures, the effect of character image shaping is enhanced.

3.2 Scientific use of props and costumes to shape the external image reasonably

In dance performance art, scientifically shaping character images requires incorporating appropriate props and costumes to help performers accurately portray their external appearances. During character creation, it's essential to reasonably utilize costumes related to the story of the dance performance. When actors wear specific costumes, they allow the audience to directly experience the era's atmosphere and immerse themselves in the narrative crafted by the creator. For instance, when performing classical dances like "Feather Dance of the Rainbow Robe," dancers wearing Tang Dynasty-era attire showcase elegant expressions and fluid movements through these costumes, precisely portraying the image of a court lady and presenting Tang Dynasty court culture to the audience. To enhance the three-dimensionality of character portrayal, props should be scientifically utilized[2]. In the dance performance "Scholar with Paper Fan," performers use white paper fans and white robes to depict the scholar's image. The use of white paper fans can be enhanced through fan-waving and fan-shaking motions to boost the scholar's vitality and ensure smooth transitions between actions.

When shaping characters, extensive body language can be employed to convey dance narratives and improve character portrayal effectiveness. In actual dance performances, to express inner conflicts, performers may actively design rhythmic movements and dramatic transitions to directly reveal emotional tensions. To better shape external character images, costumes should be scientifically selected using material, style, and color variations to reflect the era's background and personality traits associated with the character. In ballet stage plays such as Swan Lake, different colors are selected for "Black Swan" and "White Swan", and the strong contrast between black and white colors is used to better show the characteristics of different characters.

3.3 Strengthen the characterization of characters and enhance the richness of inner emotions

To authentically portray characters in dance performances, performers must not only master their physical forms but also scientifically develop nuanced personalities and emotional depth. By cultivating role identification and emotional investment, they can enhance the authenticity of character portrayal. In dance artistry, performers should immerse themselves in their roles to deeply understand characters 'inner thoughts and emotions, thereby elevating performance realism. For instance, when delivering tragic roles, dancers must capture the essence of despair and anguish through facial expressions and body language. During performances, artists must fully engage with their characters, interpreting diverse personalities and expressing them through their interpretation, guiding audiences to grasp emotional nuances[3].

In the dance performance "Only This Verdant Green," performers synchronize their movements with musical rhythms, using continuous motion transitions to vividly convey emotional states. The performance employs guqin (ancient Chinese zither) music to mirror psychological shifts, blending musical phrasing and timbre with the dance's rhythm, allowing audiences to perceive emotional

transitions through the zither's evolving melodies. In addition, we should further explore the characteristics of the times in the art of dance performance. Taking "Only This Green and Blue" as an example, the story background of this dance art performance is the Song Dynasty. In the actual performance, we should inquire about the personality and physical movement characteristics of the Song Dynasty characters in detail, so as to make the characters more consistent with the relevant dynasty.

3.4 Improve the makeup design of characters and strengthen the visual image

To enhance character portrayal in dance performances, meticulous makeup and costume design is essential. Authentic character development requires not only skillful use of body language but also emotional depth, which makeup and costume design can amplify. Artists should scientifically refine facial contours to align with characters 'identities and social standing[4], ensuring precise expression of their status and temperament.

For instance, in the stage production of "The White-Haired Girl," the character's tragic background and distinct traits are vividly portrayed through makeup techniques like applying white powder to create a "pale" appearance. When designing hairstyles, performers should accurately reflect gender and age according to historical context. To showcase characters' personalities and social hierarchy, tailored costumes that enhance visual credibility are crucial for compelling performances.

3.5 Explore the background of stage performance and enhance the sense of hierarchy of characters

The portrayal of characters in dance performances requires a deep exploration of cultural contexts to achieve nuanced character development. Before performing, dancers must thoroughly understand the artistic work's historical background and cultural significance, using appropriate methods to enhance character authenticity and vividness. Through daily cultural immersion, dancers integrate historical elements into their performances, creating contemporary relevance while immersing audiences in unique settings. For instance, when performing "Water Moon," dancers discovered its integration of Tai Chi elements.

By refining these movements and blending modern dance techniques with traditional Tai Chi, they deliberately slowed the tempo while intensifying forceful movements to authentically depict an elderly Tai Chi practitioner. Leveraging multimedia, cloud computing, and big data analytics, cultural research enriches stage designs with contextual elements, allowing both performers and audiences to connect emotionally with the characters' inner worlds, thereby deepening their layered portrayals. In daily practice, professional dancers must thoroughly study various dance art forms. They should promptly analyze the historical contexts of renowned dance performances, meticulously compare and contrast character portrayals across similar scenarios, and gain a deep understanding of artistic character development. By applying appropriate character-building techniques in their performances, they can ultimately achieve the artistic standards of character portrayal in dance art.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, character portrayal stands as the central mission in dance performance art. Dancers employ a wide range of techniques to shape and bring characters to life during daily performances. Through the careful crafting of varied stage scenarios, performers can create immersive environments that support and enhance their character portrayals. Refining makeup and

costume design further allows dancers to visually align with the characters they embody, ensuring that every aspect of their appearance supports the narrative and emotional depth of the performance. By integrating these elements seamlessly, dancers can create characters that not only resonate emotionally but also enhance the overall artistic appeal of the performance, fulfilling the audiences' appreciation needs.

Moreover, it is essential to fully explore and utilize stage backgrounds, incorporating appropriate props and costumes that complement the choreography and narrative. Elevating the uniqueness of dance performances through innovative and thoughtful design choices ensures that each performance stands out as a distinct and memorable experience. Ultimately, these efforts culminate in delivering a visual feast for audiences, leaving them with a profound and lasting impression of the artistry and dedication behind each dance performance.

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