

Parameters VII: Infectious Diseases in Cattle
for Four Dancers

David Pocknee

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Duration approximately 20 minutes

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Instructions:

The aim of the piece is that small, unintentional destabilizing tremors created by each performer are amplified by the feedback loops created in the group.

Performers:

This piece should ideally be performed with people who dance/used to dance but are not professional – people who have an instilled sense of balance, but one which is not too highly evolved.

They should all be wearing the same clothing (in a neutral colour) and be bare-foot.

They should all be the same sex.

Set Up:

Prior to performance all the dancers should decide whether they shall be Dancer A, B, C or D.

The performers should be arranged in a square (see left), and not move from their positions throughout the piece. However they may (and should) pivot on their feet to face the person they are mirroring.

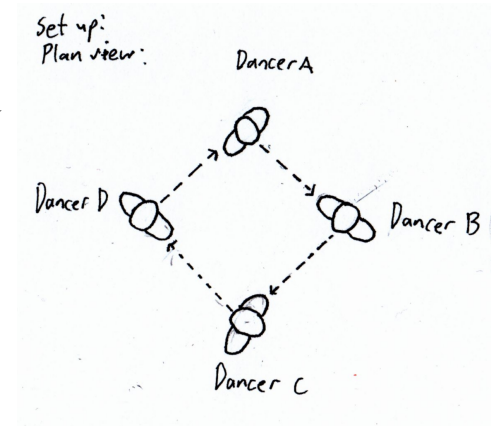
The piece should ideally be performed with all the performers standing on top of four similar-sized second-hand filing cabinets, or four small raised platforms (one for each performer).

The Score:

The score consists of a set of numbered boxes.

The score on the following pages should be cut out into four small booklets (one for each performer), with one box per page. This creates four small parts that can be carried in the hands of the performers without affecting their movement.

Each box describes a situation of relations between the performers. These boxes should be worked through in order, starting at box 1 and ending at box 20.



The Instructions:

The scores indicate to the performer another performer whose actions they should mirror whilst in the position shown in the diagram on the right:

- They should be bent over so that their torso is almost parallel to the floor.
- They should have one leg on the ground and the other sticking out directly behind them, starting parallel to the floor.
- Their arms should be stretched out at 90 degrees from their body.

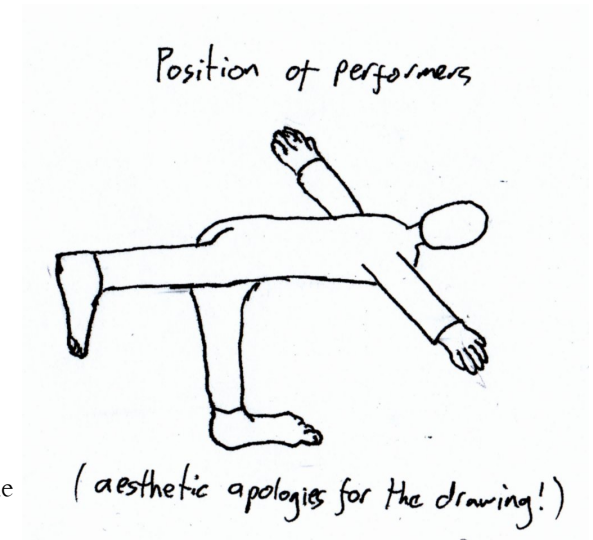
The score consists of four types of instructions:

1. Mirror **Dancer x**. – This instruction indicates that you should copy any movements you see in the arms, or legs of the dancer indicated. If you are face-to-face with the dancer you are to copy, you should directly mirror them (i.e. if they move their left arm, you move your right arm). If you are facing the back or side of the dancer, you should mirror them the opposite way (i.e. if they move their right arm, you move your right arm).

2. Balance on your **x leg**. – This indicates which leg should be placed on the ground when mirroring – the other leg should be in the air..

3. **PAUSE** – This is a short pause designed to prevent fatigue. The performer who lost balance at the end of the box before the pause is in charge of deciding on the length of the pause and cueing its start and end. The pause should be long enough to rest the players but not become structurally dominant.

4. Stand upright. – This indicates that the player should stand with their arms by their side and their feet together (as if standing to attention), facing into the center of the square and keeping their movement as minimal as possible.



The Performance:

All the performers should start by facing straight ahead, into the center of the square, with their legs together and their arms by their sides.

Three cues (preferably head-nods) need to be given for the start of each box by the person who lost balance in the previous box:

1. A signal to cue all performers to turn to the next page of the score and read the next instructions – this is followed by tearing off the page and throwing it on the floor.
2. A signal to cue all performers to rotate their bodies, by pivoting on the balls of their feet, so that they are facing the person they should be mirroring. This signal should be given even if the person cueing it does not have to move because they are either not mirroring a player (i.e. standing still), or already facing the person they have to mirror.
3. A signal to move into the balancing position.

Each performer's actions at these cues should be synchronized with that of the person cueing.

Dancer A cues the first box.

Each box ends when one of the dancers loses balance and puts both feet on the ground.

When this happens, all performers should return to their original position of standing upright, with both feet on the ground and their arms by their side, facing into the middle of the square.

The dancer who lost their balance then gives the three cues to start the next box.

If more than one performer loses balance simultaneously, the performer with the lowest letter (e.g. A is lower than B) should cue the next box.

Each performer should start each box as still and stable as possible. The positions they are placed are ones designed to undermine their sense of balance, and so there will naturally be small correctional tremors which will be amplified by the group as they are mirrored.

If a performer falls over, they should move back to their starting position with as much decorum as manageable.

dp
22 January 2012
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	1	2	3	4	5
DANCER A	CUE: YOU Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 1	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 2	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 3	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 4	PAUSE 5
DANCER B	CUE: DANCER A Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 1	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 2	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 3	Stand upright with your arms by your side and both feet on the ground. 4	PAUSE 5
DANCER C	CUE: DANCER A Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 1	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 2	Stand upright with your arms by your side and both feet on the ground. 3	Stand upright. 4	PAUSE 5
DANCER D	CUE: DANCER A Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 1	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 2	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 3	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 4	PAUSE 5

	6	7	8	9	10
DANCER A	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 6	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 7	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg. 8	Stand upright. 9	PAUSE 10
DANCER B	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 6	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 7	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg. 8	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg. 9	PAUSE 10
DANCER C	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 6	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 7	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 8	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 9	PAUSE 10
DANCER D	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 6	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 7	Stand upright with your arms by your side and both feet on the ground. 8	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg. 9	PAUSE 10

	11	12	13	14	15
DANCER A	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 11	Stand upright. 12	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg 13	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg. 14	PAUSE 15
DANCER B	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg. 11	Stand upright. 12	Stand upright. 13	Stand upright. 14	PAUSE 15
DANCER C	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 11	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 12	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 13	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 14	PAUSE 15
DANCER D	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg. 11	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg. 12	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 13	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 14	PAUSE 15

	16	17	18	19	20
DANCER A	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 16	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 17	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg. 18	Stand upright. 19	PAUSE 20
DANCER B	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 16	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your right leg. 17	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg. 18	Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your right leg. 19	PAUSE 20
DANCER C	Stand upright. 16	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 17	Stand upright. 18	Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your right leg. 19	PAUSE 20
DANCER D	Stand upright. 16	Stay stood still. 17	Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg. 18	Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your right leg. 19	PAUSE 20

	22	23	24		
DANCER A	<p>Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>END</p> <p>23</p>		
DANCER B	<p>Mirror Dancer D. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>END</p> <p>23</p>		
DANCER C	<p>Mirror Dancer A. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Mirror Dancer B. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>END</p> <p>23</p>		
DANCER D	<p>Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Mirror Dancer C. Balance on your left leg.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>END</p> <p>23</p>		