



Movement Beyond the Page: Walt Whitman, Isadora Duncan, and the Beginning of Modern Dance

- Juliette Margolies
 - Dr. Cappucci
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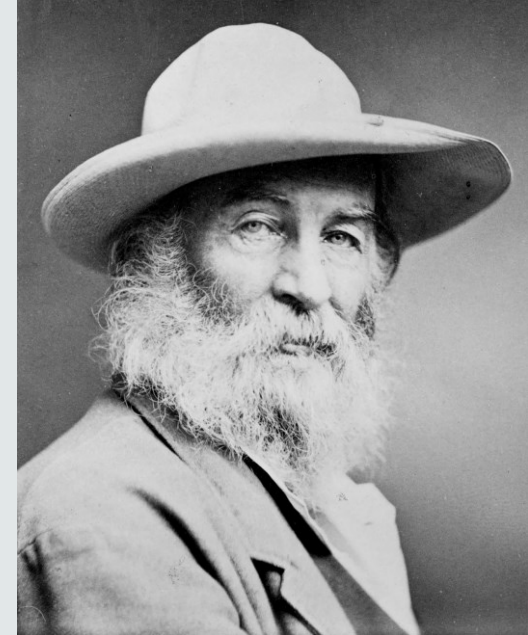
Breakdown

Thesis:

- By considering this artistic connection, Isadora Duncan's ideas about movement, choreography, and efforts to express the soul reflect her creative effort to reimagine Whitman's ideas and artistic innovations through modern dance.
- Main Points:
- Similar inspirations/ background information/ history of modern dance
- Cultural analysis
- Direct sources such as Whitman's "Song of Myself" & "I Sing the Body Electric," and a video from the Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation
- Conclusion



Isadora Duncan danse sur la plage © Arnold Genthe/Wikimedia
<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/ladies-we-love-isadora-duncan/>



Allen, Gay Wilson and Jeffares, Alexander Norman. "Walt Whitman". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Nov. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Walt-Whitman>. Accessed 4 December 2022.

Isadora Duncan once said...

"By the Pacific Ocean, by the waving pine- forests of Sierra Nevada. I have seen the ideal figure of youthful America dancing over the top of the Rockies. The supreme poet of our country is Walt Whitman. I am indeed the spiritual daughter of Walt Whitman. For the children of America I will create a new dance that will express America. I bring to your theatre the vital sound that it lacks, the souls of the dancer (Duncan 22). "



Whitman's and Duncan's Works



Beginning of Section One: "I Sing the Body Electric"

I sing the body electric,
The armies of those I love engirth me and I engirth them,
They will not let me off till I go with them, I respond to them,
And discorrump them, and charge them full with the charge of
the soul (Whitman 81).

Foundation, Isadora Duncan Dance, director. *Jacob's Pillow 08-09-2019 Highlights (5 Min)*,
Vimeo, 9 Aug. 2019,
https://vimeo.com/421732193/807c515bac?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=27425573.

Works Cited

- Allen, Gay Wilson and Jeffares, Alexander Norman. "Walt Whitman". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 5 Nov. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Walt-Whitman>. Accessed 4 December 2022.
- Duncan, Isadora. *My Life*. Liveright, 2013.
- Foundation, Isadora Duncan Dance, director. *Jacob's Pillow 08-09-2019 Highlights (5 Min)*, Vimeo, 9 Aug. 2019, https://vimeo.com/421732193/807c515bac?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=27425573.
- Isadora Duncan danse sur la plage © Arnold Genthe/Wikimedia
- <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/ladies-we-love-isadora-duncan/>
- Whitman, Walt. "I Sing the Body Electric." *Leaves of Grass and Other Writings*, edited by Michael Moon, Norton, New York, 2002, pp. 81–87.