

Since dance comes into being only when it is performed, there is another variable to be considered. The choreographer needs technically proficient performers. In a parallel case, a speaker needs to use a blend of precise words and clear syntax, well enunciated and phrased; he can lose a great idea by poor formulation and mumbling delivery. The same is true of dance and its medium of expression—movement. In fact, dancers with sensitivity and concern do more than follow a dance's form. They also enrich the projection designed by the choreographer. Ideally, the choreographer furnishes the movement design, indicates its purpose, and then assumes the dancers will be emotionally as well as technically able to communicate the significance of the work.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

Sometimes significance can be conveyed in a title, for titles and, in some cases, program notes are a means of identifying a dance for both the choreographer and the observer. Sometimes a word or phrase will arise during the choreographic process. More often the choice of an inevitable and perfect title for the dance comes after an exhaustive search of words, even as final decisions are made about the movement. In any event, titles and program notes should develop out of the materials the choreographer is working with, and rather than describe the action, these words should excite a curiosity about it. In "Robe of Shadow," choreographed as a Master's thesis, Shizuko Iwamatsu used the following lines translated from an ancient Noh play:

"The sadness of autumn is infinite
Voice of the wind and jabber of insects
What tragic woman was I

What tragic woman was I
The autumn flowers wither
The sounds of the insects fade
The voice of the wind in the pines is lonely
The sadness of autumn is infinite."

As the dance uses movement to evoke a dynamic image, so the title may use a poetic image to give promise of what will come. The following titles illustrate this suggestive quality:

"Ruins and Visions"	Humphrey
"Dark Meadows"	Graham
"Dark Elegies"	Tudor
"Opus 51"	Weidman
"Root of an Unfocus"	Cunningham
"8 Clear Places"	Hawkins
"Totem"	Nikolais
"Acrobats of God"	Graham
"And Daddy Was a Fireman"	Weidman
"Village of Three"	Nikolais
"With My Red Fires"	Humphrey
"Pillar of Fire"	Tudor
"Here and Now with Watchers"	Hawkins
"Tossed as It Is Untroubled"	Cunningham