



Chelydra

"Dancer With An Attitude"

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IN DEFENSE OF: CHOREOGRAPHY

I've just finished yet another middle eastern dance article making a case against the use of choreography. The reasoning, as always, is that it stifles creativity.

Bull manure.

I haven't seen a truly professional dancer yet who doesn't use choreography whenever the performance really counts. And most performances should really count.

Choreography does not stifle creativity. Done correctly, choreography actually forces you to be creative - because you'll realize that you've already used that combination fifty-seven million times before, and it's time to find something new.

Choreography will help you grow as a dancer, moving you from the comfortable and predictable to the new and exciting.

Choreography is an art in and of itself - it isn't simply organizing a series of steps and combinations to be performed in a defined sequence, it's building in the feeling and understanding (and even the spontaneity) as you go along.

Is there a downside? Of course. It's hard work. Damn hard work. And that's why so many dancers decide that it's "stifling". That sounds better than admitting they're lazy.

So there. I've said, and I believe it.