

# Year 8 '5 Soldiers' Power : DANCE

## KEY VOCABULARY

### Style of dance - Contemporary

**Contemporary** is an expressive style of dance that is used to tell a story or a narrative through the movement.

**Choreographic Device** - A method used to develop movement to make it more interesting.

**Unison:** Performing movement at exactly the same time.

**Levels** - The height of the dancer in relation to the floor. For example: sitting on the floor would be low level, kneeling/standing could be middle level and jumping would be a high level.

**Contact** – When dancers physically touch each other during movement and make contact with another performer, usually found in ballroom dancing.

**Canon** – When a group of people perform the same movement but at different times – like a Mexican wave.

**Formation** – The shape or pattern dancers make in the space

Canon, choreograph, duo, duet, dynamics, extension, focus, gesture, jump, leap, turn, twist, levels, motif, development, musicality, relationship, contact, retrograde, solo, space, structure, travel, trio, union, imitate, copy, unison, height, posture, expression

## KEY SKILLS

### Expressive Skills

**Expressive skills** - Aspects that contribute to performance and that engage the audience, such as focus, facial expression and musicality.

**Physical skills** - Aspects that create an effective performance such as posture, stamina, balance, coordination, control, flexibility and strength.



### Professional work:

5 Soldiers

**Choreographer:** Rosie Kay

**Style:** Contemporary

5 Soldiers explores how war affects the modern soldier, how the soldiers are physically trained and the physiological and psychological impact it has on them. The work also tackles how warfare is represented in the media and historical art works.

## 5 Soldiers—Rosie Kay

The work is split into 3 parts:

### Part 1—Drill Section

- This section takes a limited vocabulary and makes it work choreographically
- Set moves being all from the drill vocabulary, such as 'At Ease', 'Attention', 'March', 'Quick March', 'Halt' etc.
- The intended effect is to dehumanise the cast- appearing like robots, still, working as one unit, but also to lull the audience into an almost trance like state- these are not individuals.

### Part 2—Training, play and letting off steam

- This section shows the physical training the soldiers did.
- It includes things like sports-style games -relay races, simple fireman lifts,, crawling etc.
- It includes 'impossible games'- competitions to see who is strongest
- The company played with traditional relay races, adding more and more complex games and tasks into it to make them more physical and abstract.

### Part 3 - Headley Court Rehabilitation centre

- In this section it was decided that the injured soldier's ankles would be tied to his thighs using military straps that look a little like tourniquets.
- As the scene changes, he is shown in rehab at Headley Court.
- Both injured soldiers and rehabilitation staff talked of how realistic the scene was to them, describing it as hard but truthful.
- Kay wanted the audience to feel the literal breaking of the body and the pain of injury.