

# Missionaries effects on Dance

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# Tongan Dance



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QahgraRrYs>



- Tongan dance is from the Polynesian islands.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Wesleyan missionaries, banned converts from dancing because of the mistaken idea that dances were about pagan gods and were heathen rituals.
- The Tongan were much more clever than the missionaries and devised a competition to revive old remnants of the dance into a “new” dance that became known as the “Lakalaka”.

- The Lakalaka is a dance that preserves some of the old forms Tongan dance united to with what the Wesleyan missionaries have introduced as their idea of the proper way for the natives to amuse themselves.
- This adaptation allowed the dance to survive the Wesleyan missionaries oppressive nature and live on through further generations.



# The Lakalaka dancers



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuQ5eYVPtpM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuQ5eYVPtpM)



# African Warrior dance



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpZB-m0jak8>



- The introduction of Christianity in Africa had drastic effects on native dances of Africa.
- Even though the dances had universal themes and were comparable to most European folk dances. Europeans viewed their dances as manifest stations of savage heathenism and antagonistic to the true faith.
- Europeans had often perceived Africa as the “dark continent” immersed in barbaric gloom and the African mentality child like at best.

- Soon after the arrival of European missionaries dance took on a new meaning for most Africans.
- It became an act of defiance against the oppressive missionaries, as well as a ritualistic ceremony.
- Dance would live on through oral tradition of native Africans and hidden ceremonies away from the “white man”.



# Samba



- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP\\_XcqDl\\_ck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP_XcqDl_ck)

- The Samba was considered sinful to Europeans because the dance involved touching of the navels. They tried to suppress its popularity many different times, but were unsuccessful.
- Until, Manuel I passed a law forbidding the dance, but due to the popularity soon after he fled to Brazil.



- The Samba is also known as the Brazilian Waltz.
- The Samba's popularity has spread to countries all around the World.
- It is now a very popular ballroom competition dance.

# Native American Dances



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEl-yJQvXaE>



- During Colonization of the indigenous North Americans Christian Missionaries was banned because the dances were seen as everything but “civilized” by the missionaries definition.
- Many Native American communities hid their ceremonies, holding their dances in conjunction with Anglo celebrations such as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

- In 1934, when the Indian Reorganization Act signaled the end of forced assimilation, the U.S. government lifted its ban, and dance activities resumed in the context of changing reservation life.
- Despite considerable losses of ceremonial knowledge in many communities, indigenous music and dance performance were subsequently embraced openly, publicly celebrated, and accompanied by substantial revitalization.



# Hula



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLEZnhouNUg>

- Missionaries, who arrived in Hawaii in 1820, labeled the dance heathen and succeeded in having it banned.
- Nonetheless, it continued to be secretly taught and danced.
- Although, Hula was again encouraged during the reign (1874-91) of David Kalakaua, Hawaii's last king; in this period it was expanded in text, song, movement, and costume.



- But it was again subject to official disapproval after American annexation (1898), the hula was revived in a commercialized form in the 20th century.
- The sensual swivel of the hips was accentuated, and the dance became a tourist staple and a feature of Hollywood productions. In the 1970s, however, a Hawaiian cultural renaissance revived interest in traditional hula.

# Polynesian Dance



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QahgraRrYs>



- In 1820, British puritan missionaries abolished all Polynesian Dance.
- Just some of the dances that this included were Tahiti dance, Ote'a, Aparima, hivinau, and Pa'o'a.
- The Polynesian dance began to make a timid come back at early 20th century, but kept closed in restraint during the next 50 years.
- Then began being renewed during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it had lost a great deal of cultural background behind the dance.

# Yup'ik Eskimo Dance



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAhAUF1trc>



- The Yup'ik Eskimos had contact with outsiders much later than their northern Arctic counterparts.
- It was not until the 1800s, that the Yup'ik Eskimos had any contact with outsiders. There had been none until, the Russian explorers “found” the Yup'ik Eskimos. Unlike Eskimos of the Northern Arctic the Yup'ik were not considered savages, but more favorable.
- Russian Orthodox missionaries came to live among the Yup'ik in the late 1800s, introducing the Yup'ik to Christianity.

- The Yup'ik were selective as to the elements of Christianity they accepted, depending on whether or not they were compatible with their traditional beliefs.
- The dance itself was never banned, only repressed. By the 1920s, had made attempts at repressing masked dancing, but during the last 20 years of the 1900s there has been a revival of many ceremonial events.
- Through dancing and ceremony, the Yup'ik continue to keep their traditions and their culture alive.



# Bharatanatyam



- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joDvB6MOfQw&feature=PlayList&p=2823BE27A8A4BCoF&index=6&playnext=7&playnext\\_from=PL://](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joDvB6MOfQw&feature=PlayList&p=2823BE27A8A4BCoF&index=6&playnext=7&playnext_from=PL://)

- Not long before British rule the Bharatanatyam was already being looked down upon by some members of society, because prostitutes had improvised a much more sexual version of the dance and were using it to attract more business.
- During the 19<sup>th</sup> century while India was under British rule the Bharatanatyam underwent “Western Reform”.
- The British leaders gave the young girls the “opportunity” to be taught a liberal education. Although, the young dancers of the Bharatanatyam were the only girls at that time who could read, write, sing and play an instrument.



- During this time, Devadasis, teachers of Bharatanatyam, were no longer respected members of the Indian social Community. Even though the dance had been shamed and stopped temporarily a few artistically distinguished preserved this classical art form.
- They carried the art form in their heads and lived lives neglected by the community in small remote villages.
- If not for hard work and persistence by a few supporters this classical dance form could have been lost forever.

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- [http://w2.byuh.edu/jubilee/images/scrapbook/lakalak\\_a.jpg](http://w2.byuh.edu/jubilee/images/scrapbook/lakalak_a.jpg)



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