

Participant in the experiment- Non Dancer – Greek - Male

Talk to me about your experience in participating in this project.

It was a nice, interesting experience. Dancing on a song that is given to you suddenly and when you have to find a rhythm to depict with dancing was interesting, to say the least. Not all songs were danceable, in my opinion. Other were, others not, some were not dance but drama, as I understand it, dancing means having fun.

Then what about when one dances zeimbekiko, are they having fun?

They are expressing themselves.

Because you are talking about dancing to a rhythm, what exactly did you dance?

The dance rhythm there was, swing, bossa nova cha-cha “*our last cigarette*” (he sings), this was a rhythmical piece, others weren’t rhythmical, you have to dance them in dance-drama style, it didn’t help one to express at that time. One that is an absolute foreigner to dance, because I’m not a dancer, I was just given a song and they told me “dance on it”. If it had a rhythm that I understood I danced it, if it didn’t I wouldn’t do something non-dancey, as I understand it.

So, what is your belief about dance?

Dance is expression but it’s also, in social terms, but even if you’re on your own, to relax, let free, cry... It’s a mean of expression. But when you’re in public, what they give you to dance has to have a rhythm in it to be able to dance it and, at the same time for others not to look at you weirdly, it should be acceptable. Because when you’re dancing in public and you’re not a professional dancer, what they’re giving to you has to have a rhythm, in order to be danceable.

I want to focus on what you’re saying about “being acceptable”.

To have rhythm, for you to be able to move, have steps, to do specific steps that belong to this dance, you can’t dance *syrtaki* if the rhythm is *kalamatianos* (two different folk dances). If you dance *kalamatianos* to a public, their expectation is to watch *kalamatianos*. If you dance it as *syrtaki* it’s not acceptable to the ones watching you.

In this case, though, you didn’t have an audience while you were recorded, you just knew that this video would be published. How did this influence your movement?

The fact that it will be published makes the control of the movement even stricter. Because if this video is watched by millions of people, who knows, there is much more pressure on how the dancer will move and express himself.

Was there any specific dance in which the fact of recording influenced you most?

In the songs which cannot be danced.

I will use my special privilege in this research of personally knowing my participant and I’ll ask you this: in the first song (*glyke mou tyrane*, can be danced as *tsifteteli*), do you think that you danced it as you’d dance it in any other occasion?

No.

I agree. Why do you think that is?

For the very simple reason that other people will watch it. If I was dancing it at home on my own, I may have used other movements. Since it was recorded, though, my movements were smaller, more restricted.

I will insist on asking why.

Because a video will remain forever.

So, you think that the way you usually dance exposes you in some way?

I may not have wanted people to watch again and again a movement variety that I would use if I was performing it just once and the only ones who saw it were the ones with me at the moment. When there is recording, it's not enjoyment anymore, it's subject to analysis. It leaves the one who performed it and it's a subject of analysis for the ones watching it.

Last question about this. You, personally, are dancing tsifteteli in public, not only in your living room. And I didn't see any reserve while you were dancing the rest of the songs. What do you think is the particularity of tsifteteli and why do you think it will expose you?

Tsifteteli is not a dance, in my opinion, that is to be danced by men. It's not a men's dance.

But you've been dancing it for years.

I'm not being recorder though. I hope.

Comments on the collective video

This person doesn't know how to dance, at all. He has made syrtaki out of tsifteteli. It's like he's dancing in a club.

That one has liberty of movement. Opa/Ala.

This one understand nothing about the dance.

Does she think that by moving the head, she's dancing?

This is a mambo.

He started calling himself Nureyev

He dances everything it the same way. He has made this zeimbekiko.

We don't move the feet here. It's a mambo.

I correct him. It's a chacha

This is not danced like this. No way

Look at Nureyev

This just cannot be danced

Romeo and Juliet

This one is having fun

This is a drama queen

This one is jumping around a little pleasantly

Etc.