

SHOWMANSHIP 101

What is the only reason to put a choreo move into a song?

To make it sound better.

What are the 2 ways in which choreo can positively affect our sound?

1. By improving or freeing our posture and therefore our vocal production.
2. By being a natural expression of the sentiment sung, and therefore helping us to sell the emotional message of what we are singing.

When can you start to put in more than these essentials?

When your sound, music and expression scores have reached the B level. Try to add moves by degrees, making sure the other categories are not hindered before you add something more. Don't add anything that does hinder the sound, and stop adding just before the number or complexity of moves starts to impact on expression.

So how do we get good showmanship without 'exciting' choreo?

1. By singing well
2. By having energised and free moving posture
3. By using emotional communication, reflected on faces and in bodies
4. By enjoying ourselves and thus putting the audience at ease.

Where do we find emotional communication? How do we sell the song?

1. Think about the words and what they mean – connect the phrase-thoughts together in your mind to make a story
2. Try not to fake it – connect with your emotions, visualise a person or scene.
Facial expression that comes from within is 100% more powerful than "painted on" masks
3. Don't be subtle – use dramatic emotions and change them often (usually every phrase or more so in a ballad, uptunes usually only have 3 or 4 total changes)
4. Make sure the music and the emotions match – use the vocal tone and volume appropriate to the emotion being expressed, so that you can get all the skills in, triggered by the emotional message
5. Use your director as a focus to direct your storytelling to the audience.