

GLASS SPIDER

A dance idea for KS3

A dance based on the lyrics of the song *Glass Spider* by David Bowie from the album *Never Let me Down* on vinyl AMLS 3117, cassette TC AMLS 3117, CDP 7466772 and also on some compilations.

Twenty pupils from Years 7 & 8 during an extra-curricular dance club developed the dance during five one-hour sessions. They worked their way through ideas generated by the song, gradually building the dance to performance level. The ideas for the dance came from the pupils. The lyrics are vivid and provide a good stimulus.

Glass Spider

Up until one century ago there lived in the Zi Duang provence of eastern country
A glass-like spider
Having devoured its prey it would drape the skeletons over its web
In weeks creating a macabre

Shrine of remains
Its web was also unique in that it had many layers, like the floors of a building

At the top of this palace like place, assembled with almost apparent care were tiny
Shining objects, glass beads, dew-drops. One could almost call it an altar
When the breeze blew thru this construction, it produced sounds of wailing, crying
Tiny wails, tiny cries.

The baby spiders would get scared and search frantically for their mother
But the Glass Spider would have long gone, having known that the babies
Would survive somehow on their own
Oh - The Glass Spider had blue eyes almost like - a human's
They shed tears at the wintered turn of the centuries.

Don't you hear this wasted cry. Life is over you
(Mummy's come back 'cause the water's all gone)
But you've seen who's in heaven. Is there anyone in hell
(Mummy's come back 'cause it's dark now)
Take care, take care.
(Mummy's come back 'cause the water's all gone)
Somewhere she glows divine. Somewhere she wakes alone.
But you, you've promise in your loving eye. God it's dark now.

Jah Jah Jah Jah Jah

Jah Jah Jah Jah Jah

Gone. Gone the water's all gone
Mummy come back 'cause the waters all gone
Stay low on the ground, fire can drive you, savage and afraid
Spitting the dawn, come come come along before the animals awake
Run, run, we've been moving all night, rivers to the left
If your mother don't love you then the riverbed might
Gone, gone the water's all gone
Mummy come back 'cause the waters all gone

Jah Jah Jah Jah Jah

Jah Jah Jah Jah Jah

Gone, gone the water's all gone. Mummy come back 'cause the waters all gone

David Bowie

Dance Framework

<p>First four stanzas (narrative voice over)</p> <p>Up until one century ago.....</p> <p>They shed tears at the wintered turn of the century</p>	<p>Stretching and pulling arm movements to enter stage as if weaving a web.</p> <p>Dancers form a web, layered across the stage '<i>like floors of a building</i>'.</p> <p>Two dancers enter and travel around the web making them sway as '<i>the breeze blew</i>'.</p> <p>They drape over the dancers in the web like '<i>tiny shining objects, glass beads, dew drops</i>'.</p>
<p>Stanza 5 (singing voice)</p> <p>Don't you hear this wasted cry.....</p> <p>..... God it's dark now.</p>	<p>Dancers take on a spider movement motif, plie, low, quick, jerky, frantic with arms extended and then join with a partner to do mirror image work.</p>
<p>Chorus to the end of song</p> <p>Jah Jah Jah Jah Jah</p> <p>.....to end of the song</p>	<p>Travel to small groups and use last stanza for support, action/reaction and head turning work.</p> <p>Travel to make two circles with two dancers inside creating a spider shape in the middle (as if the Mother spider) surrounded by moving circles. One travelling to the left and one to the right.</p> <p>With the final beats of the song, the Mother spider rhythmically goes down as dancers in the circles rhythmically attack and take over to hide the Mother spider.</p>