PAPER # 2

Due Thursday, April 3rd, 2008.

View the half-hour dance Fall River Legend and write a paper of 7-10 pages length that addresses this question:

How does the dance Fall River Legend (De Mille, 1950) convey concepts of cultural mores and cultural identity?

The dance has terse narrative structure.
You should **not** retell the dramatic plot of the dance; you should **not** provide a biography of the choreographer.

You should attempt to create a critique of how specific gestures in the dance define characters, and how those characters define the society depicted in the dance and its mores. You should write about the theatrical elements the choreographer uses to strengthen her depiction of the story. You should also write about how the dance suggests cultural identity and cultural structure in its inventions: its choreographic techniques, its design, its overall impact.

Be sure to write about **specific details** in the dance, and the meaning that those details suggest to you. Here is where you would write about how a specific movement phrase might suggest an idea to you. You don't have to write out what the body/bodies are doing from beginning to end, but you do have to explain what the body/choreography is doing if you are using that specific movement vocabulary or movement phrase to make a point/argument.

You may wish to check some source material for information about the choreographer. You may consult her entry in the International Encyclopedia of Dance at GV1585.I586 1998 in the Humanities Library.

Your paper must be typewritten, double-spaced, and thoroughly edited for spelling and grammar.

Composition counts!

Try to make your writing lively and informative.

Be sure each paragraph has a central idea, and that each sentence has a subject and verb.

21M.670 / WGS.591J Traditions in American Concert Dance: Gender and Autobiography
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