

Implied Dance Actions

By Chris & Terri Cantrell

In the course of executing the string of figures, positions, and actions put together by a choreographer, occasionally there are certain actions that need to be performed at the end of a figure in preparation for the following figure that are not explicitly stated. Interestingly, these 'implied actions' often occur in lower level routines and can make a sequence more difficult than the phase rating would indicate. The cuer is then left with the decision to either add information while cuing or assume that the dancers are knowledgeable enough to be able to make the necessary modifications without assistance.

The most common of the 'implied actions' is the unspoken maneuver. For example, a maneuver is implied when a vine (or twist vine) 4, executed with the man facing the wall, is followed by a pivoting action (pivot, spin turn, etc.). The 4th step of the vine done normally does not end in a position that allows the man to step back toward line of dance into the pivot. To make the transition smoother the 4th step of the vine should be modified to include a maneuvering action so that the pivot is possible, comfortable, and smooth. In this particular case it might make the action desired clearer if it was choreographed or cued as "vine 3 and maneuver". Yes, we have seen the multitudes make it work without including the maneuvering action at the end of the vine, but at the expense of whose arm, back, knee, ankle, or other body part? Gentlemen, remember the first rule of dancing "never hurt the woman", she has far too many chances to return the favor at a later time.

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