## A Choreographer's Handbook

Jonathan Burrows



## Contents

Preface	xi
Dancing / Principles	1
Material	5
Habits	7
Repetition	8
Repetition	11
Repetition	13
Improvisation / Cut and paste / Choreography	24
Form	28
Exploration / Risk	29
Subject / Inspiration / Stealing / Familiar movement / Choreography / Referencing other sources / Self-expression	30
Contract / Performance space / Language / Choreography	37
Breaking the rules	41
Research / How and what? / Dramaturgy / Theory / Curiosity	43

vii

Interview / Unfinished business / Questions /	
Principles	49
Financial limitations / Studios / Funding applications	51
Preparation / Rehearsal schedule / Heaviness	54
Collaboration / Audience	58
Originality / Paradox	61
Technique / Parrot on your shoulder / Authenticity / Daily practice / Dancing / Style / Fiddling	66
Virtuosity	76
·	
Hoarding / Beginnings	78
Endings	81
Keeping it going / Pacing	83
Dub reggae / Rate of change / Simple material / Desperation	87
Stillness and silence / Fear of being boring	91
Minimal and maximal	93
Does it work? / Showings / Mentoring	95
Other bodies / States	99
Distracting the self / Paradox / Choreography / Performance /Electric guitars	102
Predictable and unpredictable / Expectation	107
Narrative / Ballet / Continuity	109

Continuity / Sectional pieces / Material / Make six things / Choreography / Flow / Relation	113
Relation / Solos, duos, trios, quartets / Ideas	119
Relation / Time / Rhythm	123
Time	128
Abstract dance	135
Counterpoint / Formal elements / Difference	138
Scores / Studios / Improvisation	141
Chance / Empty hands / Gamut of movements / Limitations / Laborious work / Philosophy	152
Place or space?	157
Audience / Facing the front / Confrontation / Humour / Failure	159
Audience	165
Performance / Principles	168
The marketplace / Earning a living / Administrating the work / Commissions	172
Music / Collaboration / Silence	180
Text	185
Lighting / Technicians / Collaboration / Costumes / Shoes or no shoes? / Set design / Nudity	188
Titles	196
Filming / History / Collaboration / Mirrors / Human-scale	198
CONTENTS	ix

Hierarchies / Dancer or choreographer? / In it or out of it? / Who owns what?	204
How can I simplify all of this?	208
Forget all this	209
Bibliography	210
Thanks	213
Biography of the author	216
Index	217