

# Samuel Zaplin

## North Lakes State College

### *Peer Pressure*

#### Choreographic Statement

How addicted are we truly to our phones? The connection that we as people have to each other is starting to dissipate, as we start to be consumed by our smart phones. This contemporary piece explores the social viewpoint of the loss of social connection because of technology. The chosen song, *Peer Pressure*, is reflective of the intent, explaining how love can change a couple's behaviour, for better or for worse. The piece is performed in a narrative structure: ABCD, with phones used as props to assist the portrayal of the intent.

The relationship between the dancers significantly shifts through the piece. Section A shows the relationship with physical and emotional connectedness, and mostly utilising partner work as well as unison, with a strong focus towards each other. Section C and D utilises unison which displays the loss of physical connectedness as the focus shifts to the prop; the connection is now with the phone. Section B presents the slow and gradual shift in the loss of connectedness utilising mostly solo work with contrasting styles of movement. The male dancer performs soft and fluidly, behaving more naturally, while the female dancer becomes more robotic and very pedestrian, showing the transition from physical connection to technological connection.

Section C cleverly incorporates literal movement, dynamics, motif, and repetition. The literal movement is demonstrated clearly with the phone, bringing it to the ear as if to answer a call, holding the phone in front of face, and texting. Dynamics change in this section, becoming more violent and abrupt as the dancers fight the technological addiction. The motif in the piece — lifting of the knee in a contraction and pushing back down — is repeated several times, symbolising the idea of pushing the technology away showing them trying to reject it. The most important element is repetition. The small sequence that the female dancer performs in section B is repeated in section C with greater clarity, with the intention of showing the addiction to technology growing. The first time this sequence is performed is with one dancer, the second time is both dancers to show how easily the addiction can spread.

While a canon is difficult to perform in a duo, a simple canon has been incorporated in the end of section A, foreshadowing the loss of connectedness in the dancers. This is where the contrasting movement between the 2 dancers begins to appear showing them gradually moving away from each other emotionally and physically.

## Bibliography

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2. Internet Matters, September 2017, *Peer Pressure to get Kids the Latest Smartphones as they Start School*, [27/03/2020], <https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2017/09/14/parent-stories-peer-pressure-get-kids-latest-smartphones-start-school/>
3. Smith, M. October 2019, *Smartphone Addiction*, [27/03/2020], <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/addictions/smartphone-addiction.htm>
4. Observation of couples in multiple public places. Viewing how technology is making them lose connection.

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