Desert Journey: A Religious Dance-Drama and an Evaluation of Its Effect on a Selected Latter-Day Saint Audience

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Abstract
The Holy scriptures abound in references to the use of dance as a means of worship. It would seem that there is a need to understand how present day members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints feel in regard to the kind of dancing referred to in the Scriptures.

This study will be concerned with the production of "Desert Journey," a religious dance-drama depicting an episode from the Book of Mormon. A record of "Desert Journey" will be made with a movement notation system adapted from Notation, an architectural movement notation system developed by Laurence Halprin of San Francisco.

"Desert Journey" will be presented to a selected group of Latter-day Saint dance directors attending the 1965 June Quarterly Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their responses and attitudes toward the production as a means for religious worship will be determined with a questionnaire.

The information gained from the production of "Desert Journey" and the responses to the questionnaires will be used to make suggestions for the effective production of religious dance-dramas in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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MA

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