

Proposal for Visualization

Brainstorm of words and images:

folding, puppets (external control to their movements), hanging, **breaths**, pushing through space, legos, noble, graceful, bending, squashing, awakening, power, timid, guilt, defenseless, ashamed, hidden power, "fallen warrior"...etc.

Movements that should influence the visualization:

- acceleration and **pauses**
- rolling up the spine from the floor or if the dancer is up-right

Simplicity: I want the choices that are made to be based on creative desires, not an attempt to use all the technology available. I think that keeping many of the factors simple will help us focus the message and the movements that we want to portray. I also believe that keeping obvious or very recognizable symbols out of the visualization and the dance will help the message be more open for audience interpretation and be less distracting from the movement.

Themes:

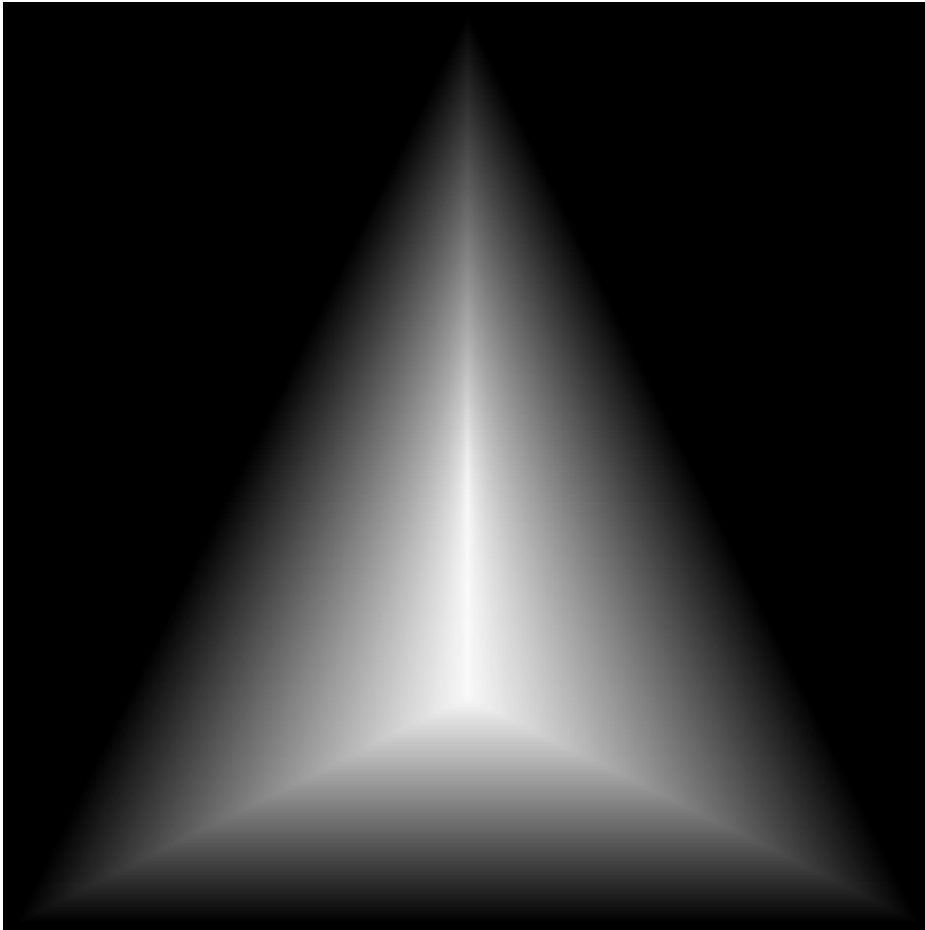
After attending two rehearsals I was trying to discover what the movement meant to me. These feelings are up to discussion, but as of now they are what influence my visualizations.

The movements rise and fall, they express graces and rage, they represent "generosity of spirit" I think that this normal ebb and flow represents life. These movements can be generic struggles that could be molded to any life and thus appeal to any audience. This idea of the life cycle was solidified by the decision to have multiple pieces that can work together or alone and then repeat until the music is over. This repetition is beautiful because not only does the audience get to see the movement from a different angle, but it hints at the idea that these movements are part of a repetitive cycle. There are patterns and rhythm to everyday life that are mundane, but beautiful and in between these basic needs there are moments and desires that are extraordinary.

My concept

I would like to take the idea from my conversation with Sybil. This is a building block piece or a “lego” piece. There are three dancers and they could all dance together or it could be a solo or a duet. I want the visualization to reflect this idea because I think that it is strong.

I would like each dancer to have a “blob” associated with them. Each blob will have its own color and be based on some geometric shape. I am currently thinking of ways to divide the screen into three and I came across this image in the processing text book.



I know that this picture is not very clear, but I am interested in creating shapes like this with edges faded out. As the dancers I want it to appear as though their bodies are pushing through and expanding the object associated with them.

Two things that I want to do with the movement are, change the shape and size and the luminosity or brightness of the blob/object. During the rehearsal I noticed two interesting movements. The first was lack of movement. There are moments when the dancers pause or slow significantly and these “breaths” are very significant in contrast to the style and speed of the other movements. On top of this there is the idea that not all the dancers need to be moving. That during some performances it is possible that there will only be two or fewer dancers. I think that given these two concepts it would be interesting to base the size of these shapes on the acceleration data. When a dancer is moving more than their portion of the visualization will be a primary part of the screen.

It would also be possible to have three visualizations, one for each dancer, and these change based on which dancer is moving the most. I want it to be simple. I would prefer just one visualization, but if three is desired by the group I think that we would need to work hard to make them all aesthetically cohesive, as if they were members of a series of paintings. I also want it to run itself. I do not want there to be a user off stage who is not a dancer changing the visualizations.

I want the luminosity to be based on the position of the dancers. If they are upright their visual would be brighter, they are in a plank position it would be half way and when they are upside down it would be very dark. I am not sure if this is something that we have the technology to implement, but I think that it would be interesting to discuss. I would like the movement to seem like it is the life behind the visualizations. without the movement the visualizations slowly shrink back to their inactive states.

I understand the importance of not making the visualization distract from the movements, but I also think that it is important that the visualizations are recognizably influenced. I would like the dancers and the audience to understand the connection between the movement and the visualization. I will have to code something and then we will need to test it with the dancers until it is fine tuned.