

THE CITY UNIVERSITY

LONDON

LABAN CENTRE FOR MOVEMENT AND DANCE



DEGREE of MASTER OF ARTS

We hereby certify that

GORDANA OMERAGIC-MESTANAGIC

having attended an approved course of higher study

satisfied the examiners and was admitted

by resolution of the Senate to the

Degree of Master of Arts

in Dance Movement Therapy

on the 5th day of July 19 93

Vice-Chancellor

Director

Laban Centre for Movement and Dance

Academic Registrar

Professor R N Franklin, F.Eng
Vice-Chancellor



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September 1992

VALIDATION OF LABAN CENTRE DEGREE COURSES BY CITY UNIVERSITY

You will probably be aware that, as from 1 September 1992, City University has taken over from the Council for National Academic Awards the validation of the degree courses run by the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance.

You will not notice any differences in terms of the day-to-day operation of the courses, but the significance of the change for you is that on successful completion of your course you will receive a City University degree instead of a CNA A degree. You will also become eligible for membership of the City University Convocation and the City University Society, the University's organisations for its graduates.

The University is delighted to have formed this association with the Laban Centre. It already validates a number of courses for other institutions and views this new link as a genuine strengthening of the activity. Both institutions see many possibilities for future developments and sharing of expertise. The University has active Departments of Music and of Arts Policy and Management where there is much enthusiasm for the development of the relationship with the Centre; equally our Department of Clinical Communication Studies (speech therapy) sees possibilities for collaboration in the therapy area.

The fact that the two institutions are some distance apart means that you may not be able to take full advantage of the link, but we hope that you will find opportunities during your time at the Centre to visit the University.

I wish you every success with your course.

Yours sincerely
Radul Franklin

Transference and Countertransference
in Dance Movement Therapy: A Case Study
of an Eight Year Old Child with Emotional
and Behavioural Problems

A Dissertation
Presented to the Faculty of
The Laban Centre for Movement and Dance

In partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the Master
of Arts degree in Dance Movement Therapy

Gordana Omeragic-Mestanagic
December 1992

ABSTRACT

Through the case study of an eight year old boy with emotional and behavioural problems, the boy's unconscious conflicts that emerged during the course of dance movement therapy are presented. The focus of the study is drawn to the most striking aspects of the boy's emotional problems revealed through transference phenomenon. Therefore, particular attention is paid to his impulsive tendencies and his symbolic communication through movement, and the therapist's perceptions through countertransference.

The clinical examples illustrate that in dance movement therapy transference phenomenon is evident through the patient's nonverbal actions, as a reflection of his behaviour towards important persons and his internalized images about them. The assumption is that body activity can be considered as a link between the patient's past and present, making the patient's problems more obvious through his behaviour.

Countertransference has been recognized as the manifestation of the therapist's perception of the patient's messages through his engagement in the patient's action. Hence, it is suggested that mutual communication between the patient and the therapist through movement interaction can be seen as a valuable means of reaching the patient's emotional state.