

- Last Friday I was able to attend MB Dance's "Dying and Dying and Dying" performance. As someone who has lost a close family member, I was able to immediately connect with the performance and its message. In the first segment of the performance, the dancers placed photos of the deceased in a circle on the floor. Channeling their spirit through words and actions. I thought it was interesting how they never talked about the emotions behind their loss, or expressions of grief. As the dance went on, I surmised that by channeling their loved ones and expressing actions and phrases they would say was a way of honoring their existence and to express that they were not truly gone. There were many people of different cultures and ethnicities represented in this segment and provided an intimate look into the lives and mannerisms of other cultures.

The thinking and execution behind the capitalism segment was brilliant. The tone and mood of the performance changed dramatically from somber to aggressive and invasive, enhanced by bright lights and dissonant music. Two dancers were peacefully dancing side by side, but as other dancers harassed them, their tempers changed, which led to them attacking each other later in the performance. An uneasy cooperation was established between the one of the "peaceful" dancers and one of the "harassers". Using motion, Bauman attempted to play on the competitive and predatory nature of capitalism. Eliciting characteristics similar to the principals of social Darwinism. The strong preying on the weak. A continuous arms-race between individuals. Constantly striving to adapt to an unforgiving world. Portraying the effects of a lack of compassion; the human psyche is corrupted, and our most animalistic and cruelest behaviors are exposed and degraded to their most basic form. This piece ends with the dancers sobbing and comforting one another, signifying that capitalism has effectively drained the dancers and society as a whole.

Personally, I thought both aspects of the performance, death and capitalism were interestingly intertwined. It was almost as if Bauman was comparing death of a loved one to the death of the human spirit by way of capitalism. Commenting on the various ways a person could die, physically, mentally, and spiritually. The capitalism bit was more of a social commentary and meant to evoke thoughts, while the death aspect focused more around emotions. From what I understood in class, we are developing our ability to tell a story through motion, and "Dying, Dying, and Dying" provides an example to do so. Using props, additional visuals, and unordinary choreography all add to a performance. To be able to move by following our fingers allows us to add the tiniest of details that which enhance and provide a more expressive feel to our choreography. It also engages the audience and shows the dedication towards the choreography.

- It was absolutely an amazing experience to have witnessed the powerful performance put on by the MB dancers tonight. By just a glance of the title of the performance, I had no idea what I'm in store for. But as soon as the light dimmed and the narrator came up, that's when everything started to fall into their place for me. For an entire hour, five beautiful MB dancers used dance, singing, and scripted speech to tell a story of their experience with "dying". It all started with them mourning about their loved ones. By doing so, they fell into the world of the dead with thoughts of things they didn't finish doing, things they hadn't done, and things they regretted not doing. As they were gradually embraced by death and the world of darkness, they were able to see their loved ones who had passed away before them. Even though it was

great for them to catch up with their loved ones, but it was not their time to die yet. By the laws of nature, they don't belong in the world of dead. Their time of time has yet to come. Faced with the sorrow and tears of saying goodbye to their loved ones once again, they were forced to return to the world of life, where they rightfully belong. Having experienced the world of death, the four dancers learned to live everyday not by mourning their loss, but by living to their fullest.

Whenever I was watching a dance performance, the hard part for me was figuring out the story behind their movements. But for "dying and dying and dying", the perfect timing with the music and utilization of props and exaggerated body expressions allow me to understand what was going on in the performance. I am absolutely impressed by the precision of their movements and the endurance required to put on an hour-long performance. Personally, I think this performance is very well choreographed not only to tell a story, but also to teach the audience the moral of appreciating and living their life.