

Choreographic Tools and Considerations for Outdoor Site-Specific Dance
Pages 17-18 of Jill Randall's MFA Thesis, "The Natural Settings Project: Choreographing and Researching Site-Specific Dance"

Color. Already occurring in the space (nature, buildings, floor surface), costume selections, costumes next to the setting

Time of day. Light, shadows, heat/cold (temperature), activity going on in the area, traffic (vehicles and people), noise level

Surface. What are the dancers moving on? Safety concerns? Surfaces can be even/uneven. Consideration for amount of trash, dirt, and wetness as well.

Space. Amount of dancing space. Space for the audience. Safety - not too crowded. Sightlines. Proximity, depth, distance.

Scale. Relationship of dancers to the space. Proximity or distance between the dancers and the audience.

Audience. Invited or passersby? Docent-led or free to roam? Number of ideal audience members per show. Are the audience members standing the whole time? Accessibility issues? Do the performers interact with the audience?

Costumes. Fabric (issues of snagging, dirt), wind, heat/cold, shoes

Safety. Dancers, audience, stage manager's kit, stage manager

Permissions. Public spaces, private spaces, abandoned areas, liability; scheduled and advertised events or pop-up performances

Sound. Natural sounds, music (recorded or live), volume needed for audibility, equipment needed to play music; noise affecting neighbors and businesses nearby

Rehearsing in the real space and time. Access to the space, permissions to rehearse, frequency of rehearsals in the actual space

Relationship of choreography to that specific place. Why? How? Understanding of the history of the space. Building relationships with the current residents, business owners, and community members. Letting the community into the process of making the dance.

Additions to the space. Are you adding sets, lights, sound systems?

Performance sequence/order. Only one section going on at a time, or multiple sections at once with different audience groups at each section

Preface/instructions for audience members beforehand. What to expect, logistics, audience members moving and safety.

Weather. Back up plan if weather cancels a performance; additional items to support the audience with sun, heat, or cold (blankets, umbrellas, parasols, or fans).