

# Modern Dance: Jose Limon

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# Table of Contents

Chapter 1:Early Career	3-4
Chapter 2: Impacts & Influences	5-6
Chapter 3: Works & Accomplishments	7-8
Works Referenced	9
Common Core	10

## Early Career

Jose Limon was born in Mexico in 1908 and moved to Los Angeles, California at the age of eight. He is part of the second generation of modern dance.

Jose Limon had some exposure to students of Denishawn. Even with experience with Denishawn, Limon moved to New York City and started to train with Doris

Humphrey and Charles Weidman  
at the age of 24.

# Impacts & Influences

Limon has the influence of going to war for a few years. Limon served in World War I for 3 years and returned to civilian life. His more socially focused dances are affected by this time in his life.

Doris Humphrey's style: natural, organic movement. Dramatized relationship with gravity and rhythm of breathing was a

technique Humphrey utilized and passed on to Limon.

Being a man in the dance world, Limon was eager to support male dancers and their journey to become equal to women in the dance world.

# Works & Accomplishments

Limon Dance Company was founded in 1946, and Doris Humphrey was the company's artistic director.

*The Moor's Pavane* was one of Limon's famous works and was choreographed in 1949. This work of his was based on Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello".

Limon was asked to represent the United States as a cultural ambassador because he had such a unique background.

Limon was interested in “the arts’ transcendent ability to touch basic human sensibilities, without abandoning theatrical values.”

Limon died in 1972 from cancer, but his legacy and company still remain today.



# Works Referenced

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Reynolds, N., & McCormick, M. (2003). Modern Dance: The Second Generation. In “No fixed points: Dance in the twentieth century” (pp. 319–353). New Haven: Yale University Press.

# Common Core State Standards

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.7 Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts” and Breughel’s Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).**

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