

Winlaton Rapper Dance

Mendocino English Week 2001

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Sources

Monkseaton Morrismen Video—"New Year's Day 1990"

Notes from Peter Brown (Pinewoods 1992)

Cawte, E.C. "Rapper at Winlaton in 1955." Ibstock, Leics.: Guizer, [1968?]. 23 p.

Sequence

Walk around, clash & step, nut, spin

Rolls, nut, spin

Needles, nut, spin

Fiddler, nut, spin

Maryann, nut, spin

Straight Line, nut

Walk Around

- Details
 - Form circle (1-2-3-4-5 counter-clockwise)
 - Left hand on outside shoulder of person in front of you
 - Swords upright in center
 - After clash, present swords onto own left shoulder
- Timing:
 - (16) Music
 - (16) Walk
 - (16) Clash on 1, step
 - (16) Nut, step (make on 6, rose on 8, lock arms on 16)

Spin

- Basic Idea—With a flat nut, lock arms and spin the set
- Details
 - Lower the rose to make a flat nut
 - Left arm slightly down into neighbor's, right arm slightly up
 - Feet: L R L R etc. (one step per beat, right crosses in front of left)
 - In every figure, spin ASAP after nut, even if only 4 counts
- Timing:
 - (16) Spin (break on 1 of next phrase; no rose)

Rolls

- Basic Idea—4 dancers ring round while 5th stands out, doing a periodic slow "roll" spin
- Details
 - Swords go up after breaking nut, and move to right shoulder, except
 - 5 leaves sword raised while 1,2,3,4 ring underneath (without inverting the set)
 - 5 spins in place as 1 goes by
 - 4 revolutions
- Styling
 - Drive the ring around
 - 5 swoops swords gracefully one after the other as 1 and 4 go by
- (Timing: 8 beats per revolution, nut on 32)

Needles (Split Curly)

- Basic Idea—Two adjacent mirror-image moving rings
- Details
 - 1 and 5 are (hopefully) facing the audience
 - They pass between 3 and 4
 - 1 circles left followed by 2 and 3
 - 5 spins right while passing 4, and circles right followed by 4
 - Continue around in adjacent rings (#123 in one, #45 in the other)
 - 4 revolutions
- Styling
 - Keep the two rings very tight and close together, shoulders can touch
 - Swords arching around should swoop beautifully and not be flat
 - Drive forward, don't let it look static

Fiddler (Single Flip)

- Basic Idea—A death-defying back flip
- Details
 - Break to moving ring, then face up
 - 3 leaps sword between 1 and 5, then flips back
- Timing:
 - (12) ring and face up
 - (4+16) step
 - (16) scoop on 1, step
 - (12) flip, nut
 - (4) step
- Styling—Looks best if 3 lands on feet rather than head

Maryann

- Basic Idea—Swirl and grind around stationary #3
- Details
 - Break to moving ring, then face up but don't stop
 - 3 move to front and step in place, while
 - 1 followed by 2 cast left; 5 followed by 4 cast right
 - Each pair circles 3 twice, passing right shoulders (1 inside) twice the first time and left shoulders (1 outside) twice the second time
 - At front, both pairs do small loops (same direction as large loops)
- Styling
 - 1 keep left sword high, right sword over shoulder; 2 push left fist into 1's back and keep it there, while right sword is high and not slicing 3's knuckles
 - Likewise, 5 keep right sword high, left sword over shoulder; 4 push right fist into 5's back and keep it there, while left sword is high and not slicing 3's knuckles
 - 3 smile and step beautifully; stay centered as hands above get pulled forward and back
 - 1 and 5 stay together (mirror image) in the small loops, likewise 2 and 4

Straight Line

- Basic Idea—Display the nut and the dancers
- Details
 - Break to moving ring, then face up but don't stop
 - 2,3,4 move to line by lifting swords over 1 and 5; order is 2-1-3-5-4
 - All turn over left shoulder to face opposite direction, bringing swords over
 - Make nut, 3 shows it as all open to line and step out
- Timing
 - (12) ring and face up
 - (4) form line (swords down on 16)
 - (16) step
 - (4) turn (swords down on 4)
 - (12) step
 - (4) nut (make on 4)
 - (4) open to line (line on 8)