

11-year-old's ballet video goes viral

15th July, 2020

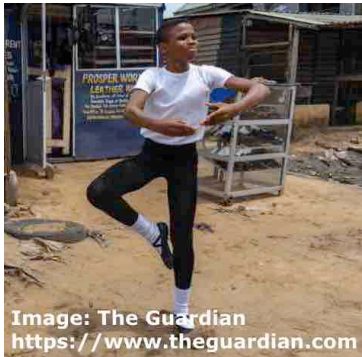


Image: The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com>

An 11-year-old boy has achieved fame after a video of him dancing in the rain outside his home in Lagos, Nigeria went viral on social media. Anthony Mmesoma Madu impressed people worldwide with his skill, enthusiasm, passion and dedication. The

Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis saw a video clip of Anthony and put it on her social media feeds. She tweeted: "We create, soar, can imagine, have unleashed passion, and love, despite the brutal obstacles that have been put in front of us. Our people can fly." Another social media user said: "As adults, it is our job to help each child find their talent and to support them...The joy from this propels them in all things they do."

Anthony is one of 12 students at the Leap of Dance Academy. The academy is in a poor district of Lagos. It provides free dance lessons to underprivileged children who have nowhere to practice. The academy's founder, Daniel Ajala Owoseni, told BBC News: "We are changing the narrative about the stereotype of male dancers." Anthony said: "Where I live there are no male ballet dancers like me. When people see ballet they think it is only for girls, they don't know that it is not only for girls." He added: "How I want them to see me is that when I am dancing they know that there is a male ballet dancer. The feeling that comes over me is as if I am dreaming."

Sources: standard.co.uk / scmp.com / gulftoday.ae

Writing

Everyone should learn ballet when they are at school. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

boy / fame / dancing / rain / passion / skill / social media / imagine / obstacles / joy / leap / academy / underprivileged / narrative / stereotype / ballet / male / dreaming

True / False

- a) A boy has achieved fame after ballet dancing in the rain. T / F
- b) An Oscar winner posted a video of the boy on her social media feeds. T / F
- c) The actor suggested her people could not fly. T / F
- d) Someone said a child's joy propels them in what they want to do. T / F
- e) There are 120 students enrolled at the Leap of Dance Academy. T / F
- f) The academy wants to change the narrative about stereotypes. T / F
- g) The boy said there were plenty of male ballet dancers where he lives. T / F
- h) The boy said he often dreams about dancing around the world. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. fame | a. neighbourhood |
| 2. impressed | b. fly |
| 3. dedication | c. sensation |
| 4. soar | d. moved |
| 5. propels | e. story |
| 6. district | f. pushes |
| 7. underprivileged | g. commitment |
| 8. narrative | h. went on to say |
| 9. added | i. stardom |
| 10. feeling | j. deprived |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important is dance?
- c) What is your image of male ballet dancers?
- d) What advice do you have for Anthony?
- e) How interested are you in ballet?
- f) Would you encourage your children to study ballet?
- g) What is in your dreams?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Anthony?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. An 11-year-old boy has achieved | a. with his skill |
| 2. Madu impressed people worldwide | b. of male dancers |
| 3. despite the brutal obstacles that have | c. in all things they do |
| 4. help each child find their | d. children |
| 5. The joy from this propels them | e. me is as if I am dreaming |
| 6. The academy is in a poor | f. talent |
| 7. free dance lessons to underprivileged | g. narrative |
| 8. We are changing the | h. fame |
| 9. the stereotype | i. district of Lagos |
| 10. The feeling that comes over | j. been put in front of us |

Discussion – Student B

- Would you like to achieve fame?
- What do you think of ballet?
- What is your favourite form of dance?
- What are your hopes for Anthony?
- What do you have a passion for?
- How do you deal with obstacles in front of you?
- What do you like to create?
- What things do you find joy in doing?

Spelling

- An 11-year-old boy has dhaeviec fame
- with his skill, aielumshstn ...
- passion and iedcoaidtn
- dnlesuhe passion and love
- despite the brutal tlosebcsa
- The joy from this polsper them in all things
- in a poor tcridtis of Lagos
- lessons to nrigruvedepiedl children
- The academy's fruodne
- changing the ienraartv
- the etopesrtey of male dancers
- there is a eaml ballet dancer

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. g	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Ballet

You think ballet is the best form of dance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dance forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): breakdance, tap dance or the tango.

Role B – Breakdance

You think breakdance is the best form of dance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dance forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ballet, tap dance or the tango.

Role C – Tap Dance

You think tap dance is the best form of dance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dance forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): breakdance, ballet or the tango.

Role D – Tango

You think the tango is the best form of dance. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dance forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): breakdance, tap dance or ballet.

Speaking – Dance

Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of dance at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| • ballet | • tap dance |
| • breakdancing | • flamenco |
| • disco | • folk dance |
| • tango | • rain dance |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.