

## Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process

1. **Statements of Meaning:** You want the beginning to start off positive, but try not to just name "I liked...", this in the end does not help the artist the most. Try for more specificity. Start with questions such as:
  - What has meaning for you about what you have just seen?
  - What was stimulating, surprising, evocative, memorable, touching, meaningful to you?
2. **Artist as Questioner:** The creator asks questions. The more artists clarify their focus, the more intense and deep the dialogue becomes. Try to find a balance that is not too specific, nor too broad. Examples:
  - How did you experience my transitions from one character to another?
  - I'm working right now to end with a strong feeling, so what did you think of the closing section?
3. **Neutral Questions from Responders:** Responders can ask the artist informational or factual questions. Do not give opinionated statements such as: why are your pieces always so long. Seek for neutrality:
  - What were you trying to accomplish in the final section?
  - Tell me the most important ideas you want us to get and where is that happening in this piece?
4. **Permissioned Opinions:** Facilitator invites opinions, but specifies that opinions must be offered with protocol: responders first name the topic of the opinion and ask the artist for permission to state it. Example:
  - I have an opinion about costumes, would you like to hear it?
5. **Closure:** Facilitator can do thank yous to both artist and responders. Facilitators can ask for a wrap up from artist:
  - Based on what you've heard today, what's your next step?