

First Contact: Boldly using technology to teach dance across the Atlantic Divide

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First Contact was an international collaborative research project in dance between two universities -- one situated in Liverpool, UK the other in Philadelphia, USA. It sought to enable students to work with peers from 3000 miles away by communicating via web-cam and email. Students worked together to create a short dance works for sharing with others, exploring together how technology could expand their learning network. The key aims of the project were:

- To investigate how web-cam and e-mail technology could be used in teaching and if it would engage students in the use of technology for their own learning.
- To use technology on a shared international dance project that encourages the development of collaborative international links and the practice of networking among university students.
- To explore the potential for such technology to broaden networks for staff to research in learning and teaching with ICT.

Students assisted lecturers in the evaluation of the project via focus group discussions, in order to inform collaborative dance projects in the future using technology. Reflections, student evaluations and advice from the project are shared in this paper with peers so that they too can 'boldly explore new horizons', and be part of the next generation of explorers in H.E. who use technology to facilitate collaborative international learning and teaching.

Key Words: ICT, web-cam, video streaming, dance, global collaborative learning communities.