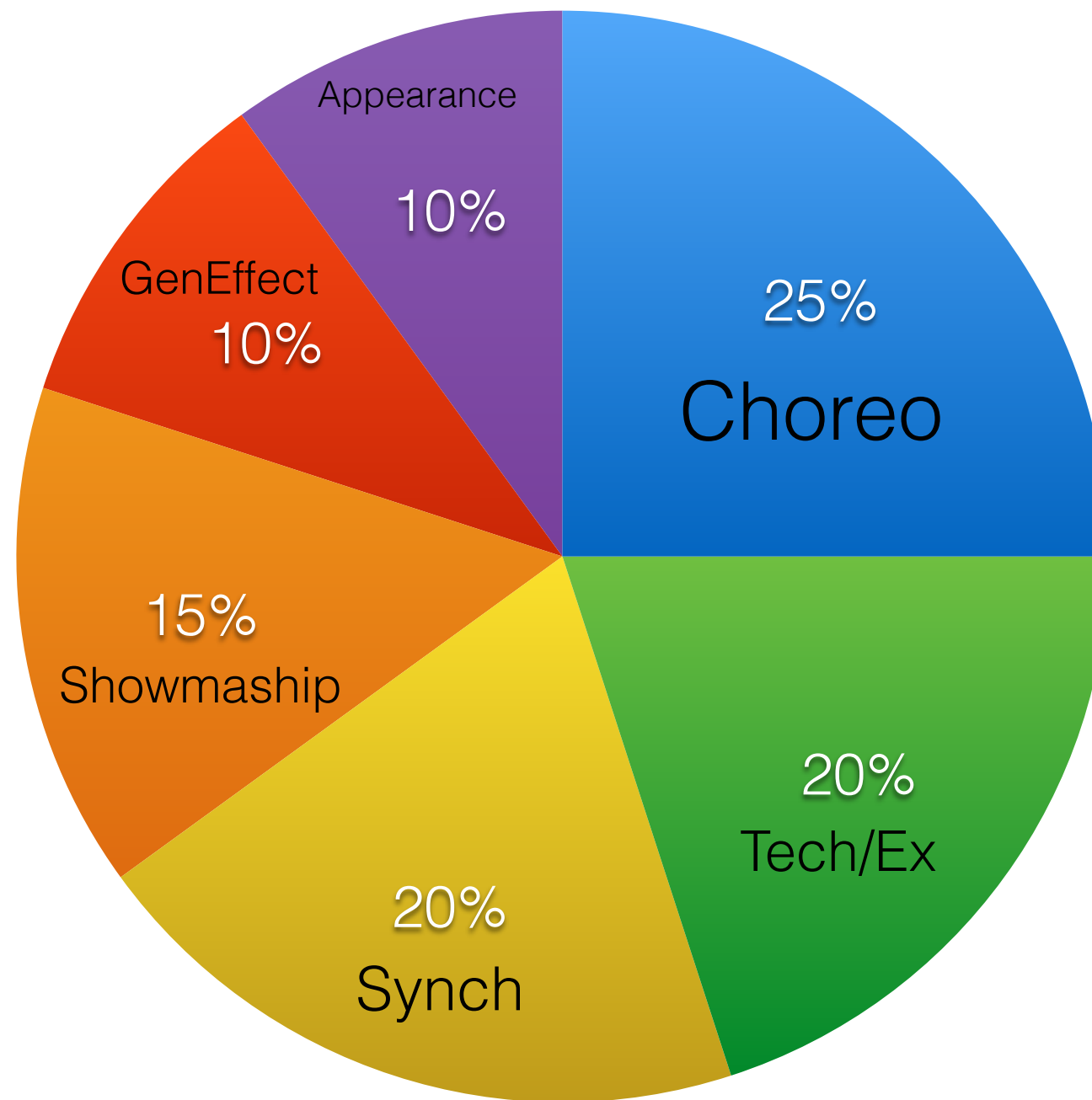


What Judges Are
Looking For

The scoresheet!

- The best way to prepare for a competition is to spend time judging your own routine using the same scoresheet that will be used at the competition.
- Understand that dance team judging is an imperfect system. There are parts of it that are objective, but the performance is being interpreted by a human being with which you will not always agree.

Pom/Dance/Kick/Mix



Appearance

- There was a plan and an effort was made. Neat and performance ready.
- Some judges count off if appearance isn't the same at the end as it was at the beginning. Hair, costume parts, etc.

Choreography

- Use all aspects of music.
- What is musicality? “Does what I’m seeing fit with what I’m hearing?”
- Story arc of all routines should have a strong beginning, climax, end and some highlights in between all these elements.
- Steps flow and aren’t a series of starts and stops. Dance through transitions.

Choreography

- Formations flow. They aren't forced and they use all parts of the floor.
- Challenge your team, but make sure team can successfully execute the choreo.
- Choreo should be beyond that of a halftime performance.

Special Note Re: Mix

- Creatively think outside minimum requirements to exceed expectations.
- Seamless transitions between elements
- Musicality is key

Technique/Execution

- How well are moves being performed?
- Pom: Pom placement = arms. Think “drill downs.” Dance technique during a pom routine should still be done correctly: leaps, turns, good posture, extension through legs and feet.
- Dance: Posture is definitely noted. Perform through the chest and initiate from the core. Don't forget to utilize good technique below the waist as well. Legs and feet are easily spotted when looking for technique errors. Exhibit proper turn technique: spot, stay on releve, keep a tight passe connected to supporting leg. Utilize proper leap technique as well, extending through legs and feet and landing silently by utilizing core.

- Kick: Posture is noted: straight backs, perform through the chest, chins lifted. Hands while connecting to shoulders are also noted: thumbs tucked, fingers together. Feet on prep, during kick and when coming down from the kick should be pointed. Leg should be extended through straight knee and all the way through foot during kicks with the exclusion of developpe.

Synchronization

- Is everyone doing the exact same thing at the exact same time?
- This is where points are deducted for memory mistakes or timing errors

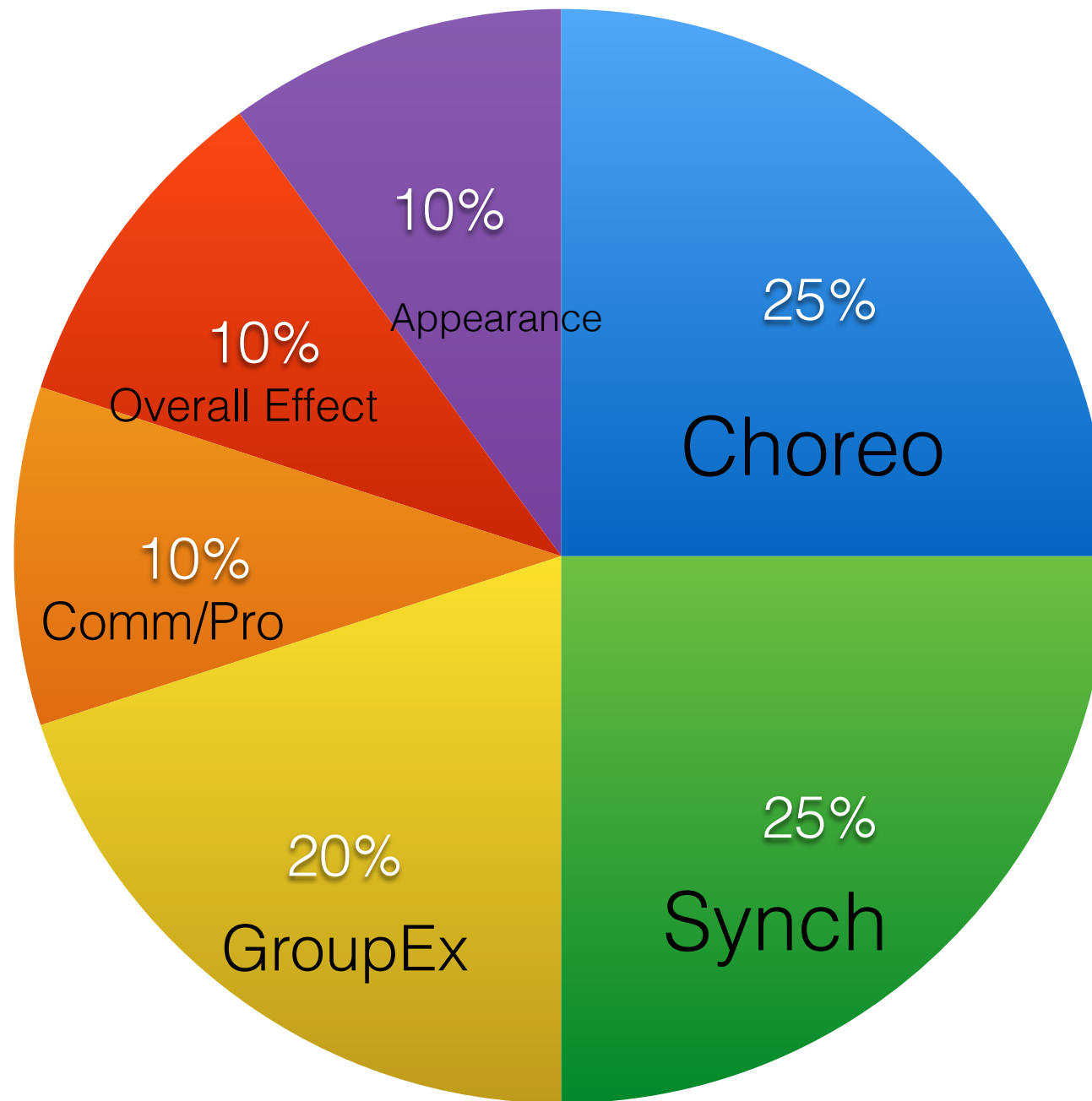
Showmanship

- Does the routine draw us in and keep our attention? Is the routine performed with confidence and not just with frozen smiles, but with eye contact as well? Was the audience engaged? Don't just go through the motions, make a connection with the audience and take them on the journey with you.

General Effect

- Rating overall on a scale of 1-10
- Is there nothing distracting or questionable about music, costume, or choreo?

HipHop



Appearance

- Beware the bulky.
- Neat and performance ready, but appropriate for a hip hop routine.

Choreography

- Creative and innovative. Utilize various forms of hip-hop.
- Musicality is key.
- Don't ignore story arc or climax.
- Use of torso and levels is very important, but big visuals are too.

Synchronization

- No timing errors
- No memory mistakes
- Is everyone doing the exact same thing at the exact same time?

Group Technique

- Moves big but controlled
- Incorporates hip hop elements like floorwork and tricks. Moves performed with wide and low base and torso is utilized. Big movements initiated from core.

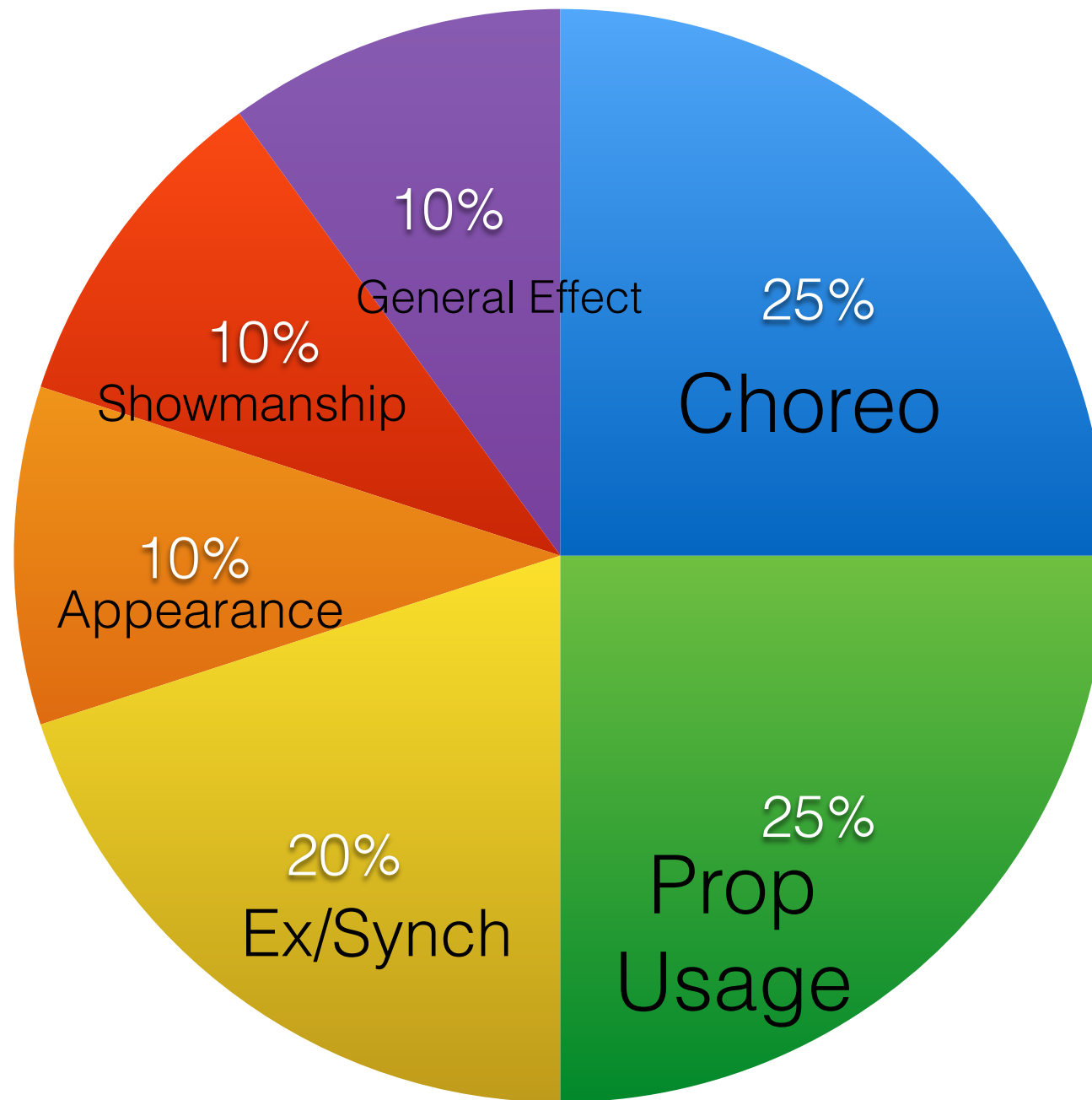
Communication/Projection

- Does the routine draw us in and keep our attention? Is the routine performed with confidence and not just with frozen smiles, but with eye contact as well? Hip hop routines can utilize a more aggressive attitude. Was the audience engaged? Don't just go through the motions, make a connection with the audience and take them on the journey with you.

Overall Effect

- Rating on a scale of 1-10 overall
- Is there nothing distracting or questionable about music, costume, or choreo?

Prop



Appearance

- Applies to performers and props
- Props need to be show ready and eye catching

Choreography

- Don't forget to dance. There should be lots of prop handling, but dance elements should be incorporated as well.
- Similar in ways to pom. Shouldn't be jazz choreo while simply holding props.

Prop Usage

- Props should be the focus.
- Use them effectively, creatively, and seamlessly.

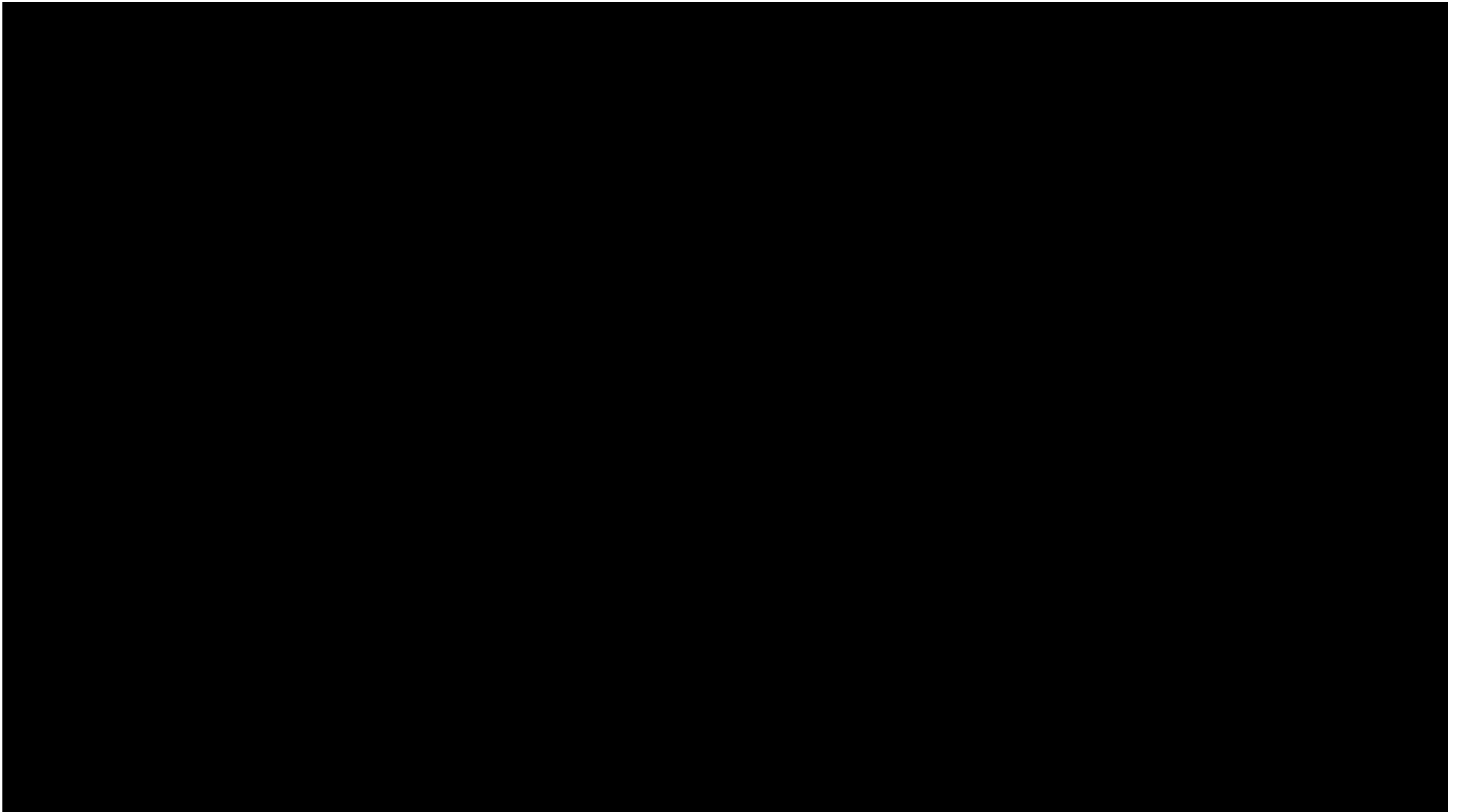
Execution and Synchronization

- Technique and synchronization is very important with prop handling because the eye is drawn to the prop.
- Keep this in mind when props aren't being used (i.e. on the floor).

- Showmanship/Entertainment Factor: performed with personality and made a connection with audience.
- General Effect: rating performance on a scale of 1-10

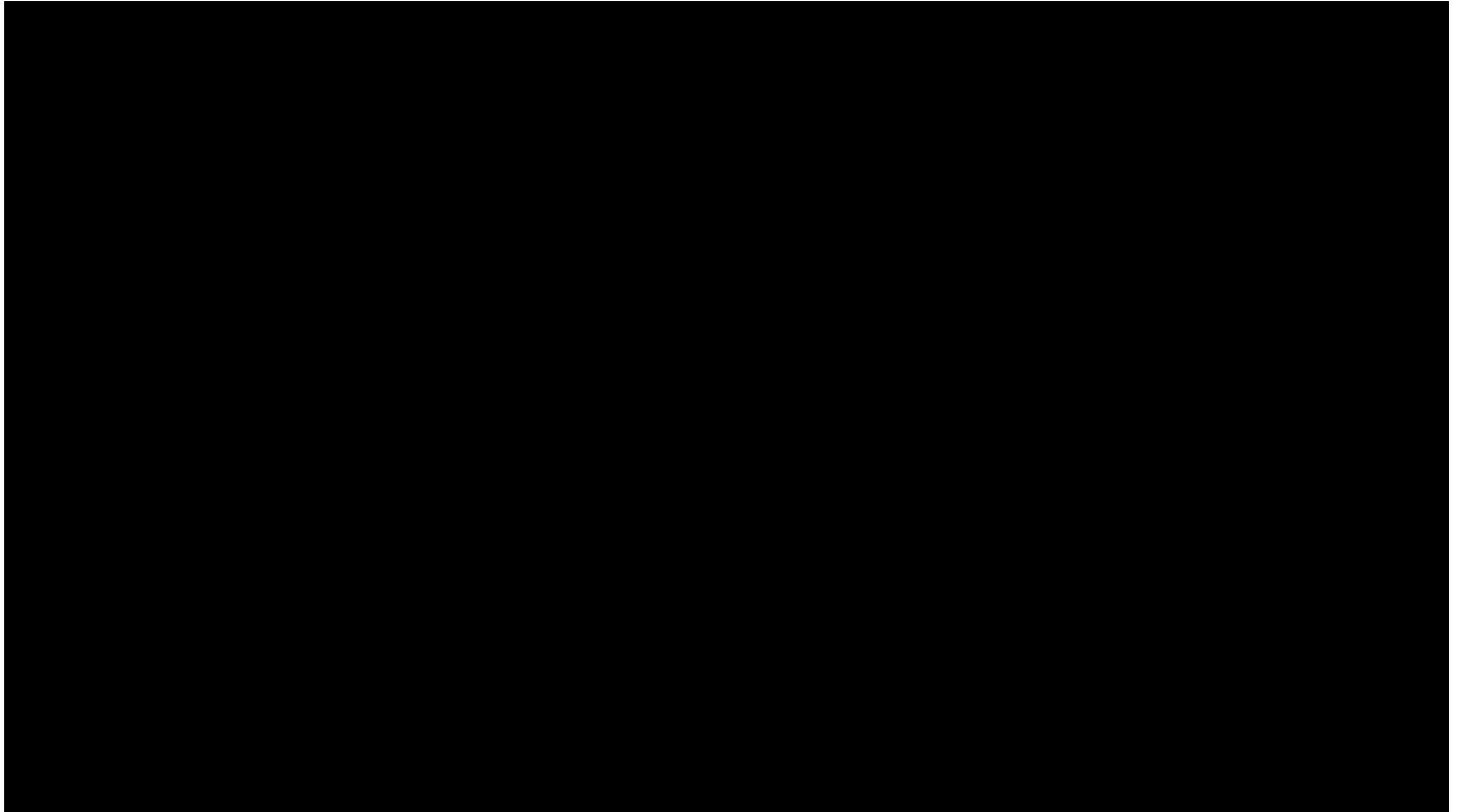
Highest Scoring Pom of 2015: Sion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyJnxpGbjjQ>



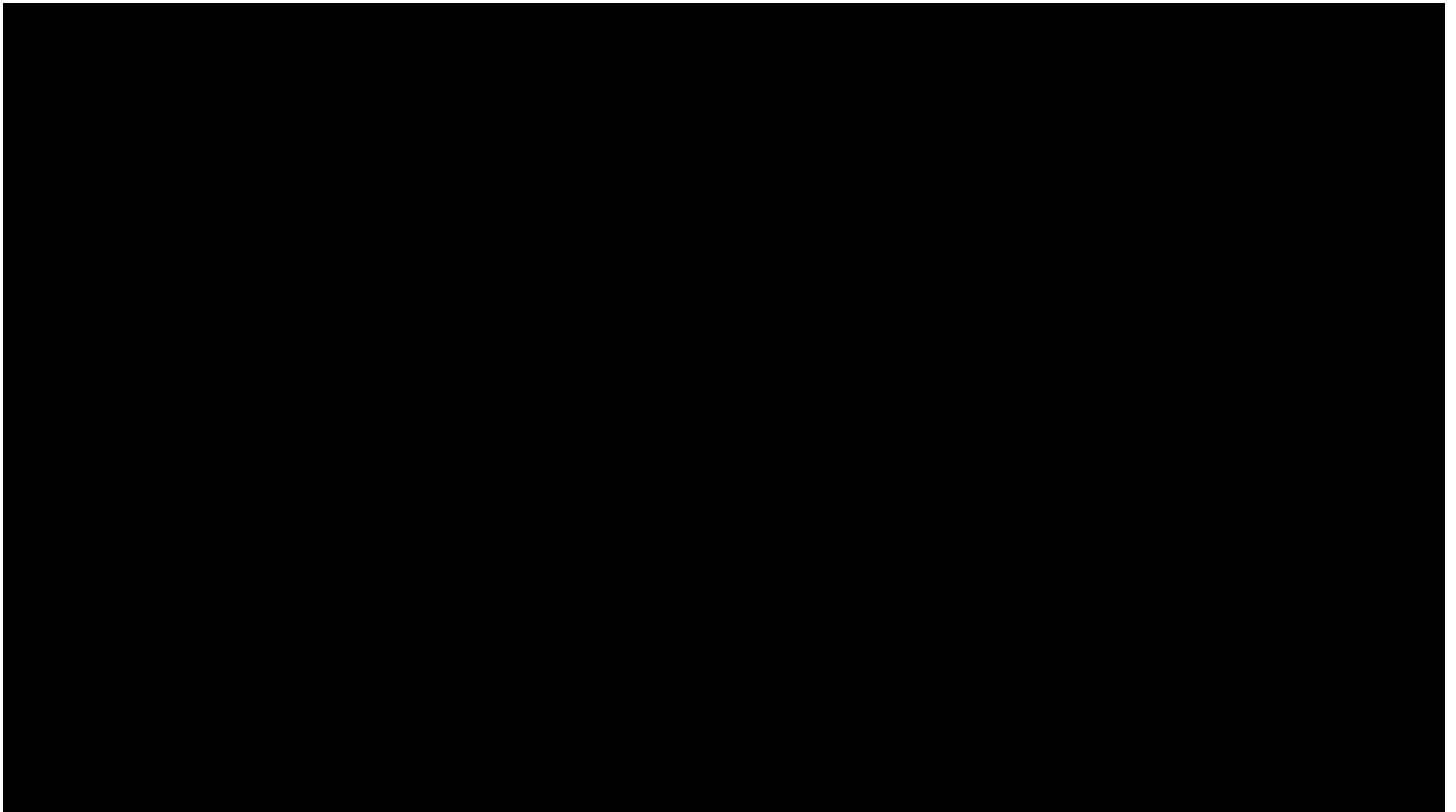
Highest Scoring Dance of 2015: Liberty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvUomo7lJpE>

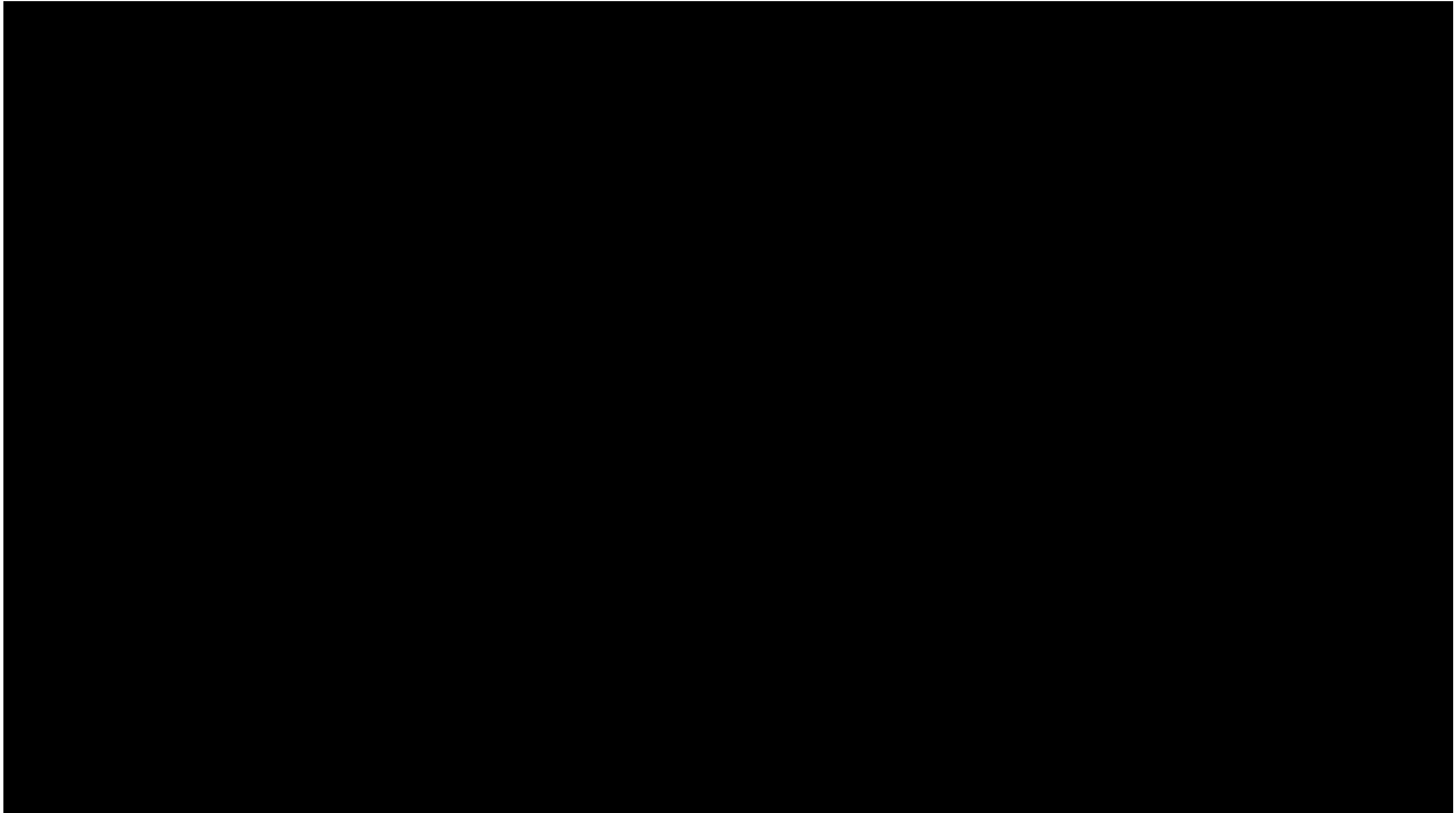


Highest Scoring Mix of 2015: Seckman

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=Uk5Ad-TFEng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk5Ad-TFEng)

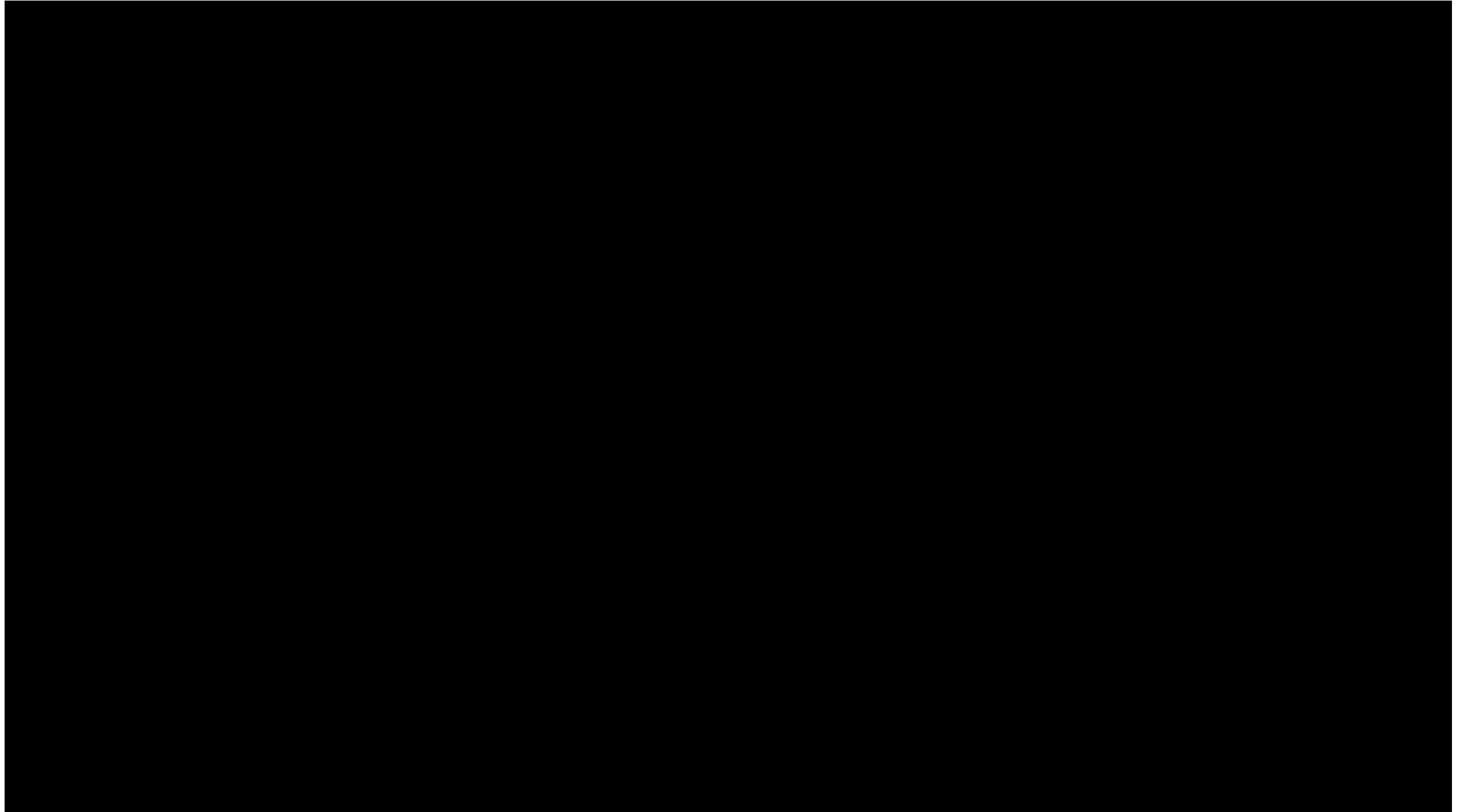


Highest Scoring Kick of 2015: Sion
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=F2OfBe0gQQA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2OfBe0gQQA)



Highest Scoring Hip Hop of 2015: Liberty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1BWs9aFhvU>



Highest Scoring Prop of 2015: Lee's Summit West

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq5RLV3mypc)

[v=Cq5RLV3mypc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq5RLV3mypc)

