

NOAM CHOMSKY DANCE PARTY BY JARRED HODGDON

INT. DANCE PARTY TV SET - NIGHT

PEOPLE dance, lights flash, a beat THUMPS.

DJ SCHISM is on the decks.

DJ SCHISM
Hey, y'all, are you ready to show
your moves and get schooled on some
knowledge tonight?

The crowd YEAH'S as Schism drops a deeper BEAT.

DJ SCHISM (CONT'D)
Please welcome your Master of
Ceremonies, the cunning linguist,
Professor Noam Chomsky!

NOAM CHOMSKY shuffles up to center stage. He has a fancy
green leather sweater on and carries a thin mic.

NOAM CHOMSKY
Thank you, DJ Schism, though I'd
like to think of myself as a *friend*
of the proletariat of ceremonies.
Welcome to my dance party social
gathering everyone.

DJ SCHISM
Let's get right to it. I got just
the wax to drop on you!

NOAM CHOMSKY
Hold on a sec. My deal with MSNBC
was that I could give an
informative lesson for each dance
segment. That's how they
manufactured my consent to host
this show.

A CORPORATE SUIT whispers in Schism's ear.

DJ SCHISM
Yeah, yeah, yeah take us old
school, teach. Just make sure you
unify that knowledge with the dance
moves. It's a party.

Corporate Suit nods their head with satisfaction.

NOAM CHOMSKY
Sure. Okay. Let's see.
(squints, reading card)
The first dance is the Whip a Nae
Nae? Now that is very interesting.
Nae Nae is an example of
reduplication, in linguistics,
where a word is repeated in whole
or part. Which brings to mind
Sirhan Sirhan, not the assassin of
Robert Kennedy mind you, but the
Palestinian militant who...

Corporate Suit whispers in Schism's ear.

DJ SCHISM
Alright, let's Whip and Nae Nae
everyone!

She drops the track, music is blasting:

WATCH ME (WHIP/NAE NAE)

Noam Chomsky looks confused as everyone starts dancing. He
struggles to follow along but can barely bend his knees.

He throws his arms in the air to halt the music - NEEDLE
SCRATCH.

NOAM CHOMSKY
Okay, okay. I'm not familiar with
that particular tune yet. Let's try
this... DJ Schism. Do you have some
Harry Belafonte maybe? It's
Calypso.

She scrunches up her nose but complies, pulling a hell a dusty
record from the crate.

DJ SCHISM
Sure, Noam.

The Calypso record PLAYS, DAY-0.

Noam Chomsky shakes his hips and dances... he knows the moves
for this one real well.

The Dancers behind him shake their heads "no"- *this is lame.*

But when Noam Chomsky turns around to see, they all start
dancing.

3.

NOAM CHOMSKY
You guys are doing great. This
record is called Day-0, a Jamaican
work song. Calypso style.

The Dancers move halfheartedly. Corporate Suit whispers in DJ
Schism's ear.

NOAM CHOMSKY (CONT'D)
Belafonte intended a subversive,
political message with the is song.
He was noticing and speaking to the
structural phenomenon we now call
globalization. Jamaica is a prime
example of neocolonialism exerting
itself upon...

RECORD SCRATCH

Noam Chomsky shocks as the music abruptly stops - looks to DJ
Schism.

DJ SCHISM
(lies)
Oops. The record skipped. Maybe
cause it's so old. Could we do
something newer?

NOAM CHOMSKY
Well I--

DJ SCHISM
--Here. I have the new Rihanna
track. I can drop it, and you just
do what you do.

NOAM CHOMSKY
No! How about this. I have a
special move to present that I
prepared for the occasion.

Everyone looks skeptical and disappointed.

NOAM CHOMSKY (CONT'D)
I can show you the moves and then
you can see if you have a
appropriate record. Now try to
follow along everyone.

Noam Chomsky gives the kids a hearty fist pump to rally them
up.

4.

NOAM CHOMSKY (CONT'D)
I call this dance the Cognitive
Dissonance.

He starts to dance with a slow wave and flail of his arms.

NOAM CHOMSKY (CONT'D)
People inherently want to think of
themselves as good, and we are fed
a steady diet of propaganda that
reflects our best selves and
desires. Yet U.S. hegemony and
neoliberal policies demand every
citizen behave against their own
moral grounding.

His moves are picking up, the Dancers are keeping pace and
seem to start enjoying it.

NOAM CHOMSKY (CONT'D)
That's super. You kids are doing
swell.

DJ SCHISM
Hey! I know those moves. I have the
perfect track!

Schism spins some wax in her fingers, drops it on the platter
and drops the needle. The beat to HOTLINE BLING starts
blasting.

OOOOOOO the crowd goes crazy and the dance moves go harder.

Sure enough, Noam Chomsky does look like he is doing a great
Hotline Bling dance.

DJ Schism feels it and even Corporate Suit starts moving
along.

STUDENT
Professor, you're the shit!

NOAM CHOMSKY
Thanks for joining us on MSNBC for
Noam Chomsky's Dance Party. In the
esteemed words of Emma Goldman, "If
I can't dance, it's not my
revolution."

BLACKOUT