

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-O, 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