Pantomime is the art of using gestures without speech as a means of communication. A dancer uses their arms, hands, and facial expression to help the audience understand the story and the character’s feelings.

Here are descriptions of some of the most familiar gestures used in ballet.

- **Anger:** Fist shaken
- **Beautiful:** Hand circling face
- **Dancing:** Hands roll as arms lift from front of body to overhead
- **Death:** Arms straight in front, hands in fists, crossed at wrists
- **Hear:** Hand cupping ear
- **I/Me/Mine:** Hand to chest indicating oneself
- **Love:** Hands over heart
- **Marriage:** Index finger pointing to ring finger on left hand
- **No:** Hands wave with palms down, crossing over each other
- **Obey:** Strong point to the floor with index finger
- **Pray:** Hands flat, palms together in front of chest
- **Promise:** The first two fingers on one hand pointing to the sky
- **Quiet:** Finger pressed against lips or hand clasped over mouth
- **Remember:** Touch or point to temple
- **Royal:** Hand circling top of head to indicate crown
- **Sad:** Fingering tracing tears down face
- **See:** Finger pointing to eyes
- **Sleep:** Hands in praying position held on side of face, with head leaning as though resting on a pillow
- **You:** Arm extending to another person with hand open, palm up or direct point with finger

Can you identify which gesture these pictures represent?

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