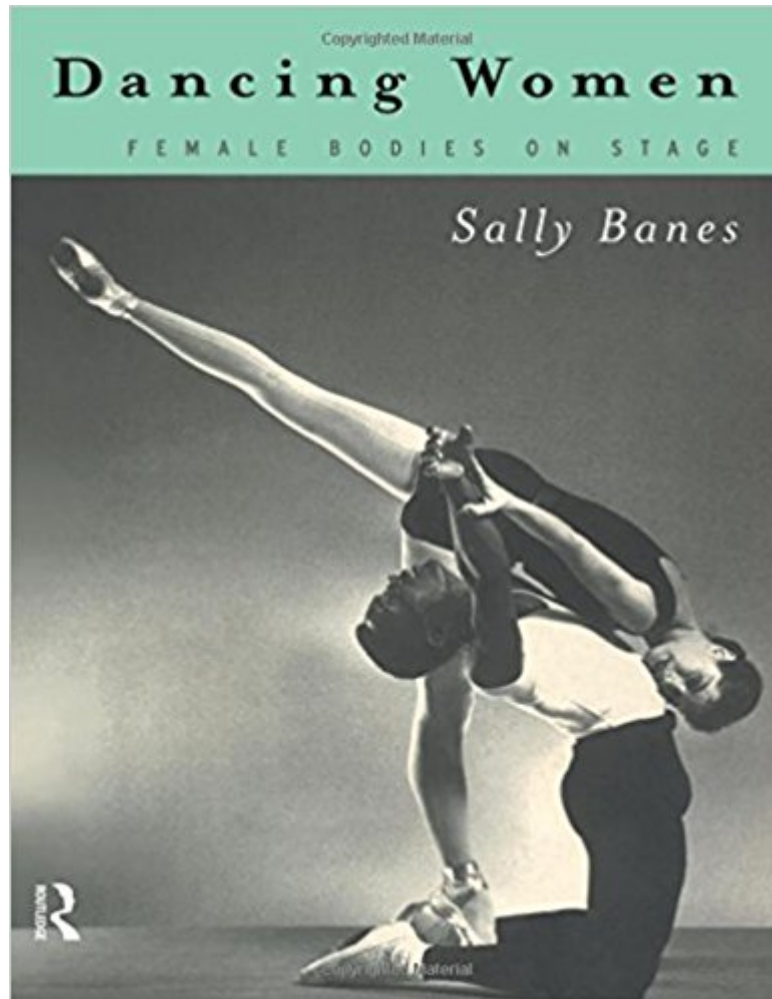


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Dancing Women: Female Bodies Onstage



Synopsis

Dancing Women: Female Bodies Onstage is a spectacular and timely contribution to dance history, recasting canonical dance since the early nineteenth century in terms of a feminist perspective. Setting the creation of specific dances in socio-political and cultural contexts, Sally Banes shows that choreographers have created representations of women that are shaped by - and that in part shape - society's continuing debates about sexuality and female identity. Broad in its scope and compelling in its argument Dancing Women: * provides a series of re-readings of the canon, from Romantic and Russian Imperial ballet to contemporary ballet and modern dance * investigates the gaps between plot and performance that create sexual and gendered meanings * examines how women's agency is created in dance through aspects of choreographic structure and style * analyzes a range of women's images - including brides, mistresses, mothers, sisters, witches, wraiths, enchanted princesses, peasants, revolutionaries, cowgirls, scientists, and athletes - as well as the creation of various women's communities on the dance stage * suggests approaches to issues of gender in postmodern dance Using an interpretive strategy different from that of other feminist dance historians, who have stressed either victimization or celebration of women, Banes finds a much more complex range of cultural representations of gender identities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dancing Women: Female Bodies on Stage is an exceptional creation that explores women in dance. Banes gives in-depth historical and social reference for the dances in this book. This context

allows the reader to more fully understand the characters on stage and the women off stage. She shows us the significance of the ever-changing "marriage plot" and how it affected choreography and influenced women to break through the social barriers in their lives. It is very educational and inspiring to read about women changing the course of art in Europe and America during the 19th and 20th centuries. I recommend *Dancing Women: Female Bodies on Stage* to anyone interested in dance history and the woman's rising power in the arts.

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