

# Dancing Modernism Performing Politics: An Exceptional Exploration by Sherril Dodds

Sherril Dodds is a highly regarded scholar, author, and dance practitioner who has made significant contributions to the field of dance and performance studies. Her groundbreaking book, "Dancing Modernism Performing Politics," delves into the intricate relationship between dance and politics during the modernist period, offering profound insights into the power of movement as a form of expression and resistance.

## Unveiling the Essence of Dancing Modernism

In the pursuit of understanding the complex interplay between dance and politics, Dodds skillfully navigates through a wide range of historical accounts, archival materials, and theoretical perspectives. She cleverly weaves together the narratives of prominent dancers, choreographers, and political figures of the time to paint a vivid and detailed picture of the socio-political climate that influenced the evolution of dance.

By examining various dance practices and performances throughout the modernist era, Dodds uncovers how dance became a platform for individuals to challenge societal norms, advocate for political change, and reflect the transformative power of art itself. From Isadora Duncan's rebellious movements, which defied traditional gender roles, to the avant-garde experiments of the Ballets Russes, Dodds presents a compelling argument for dance as a means of questioning and subverting the status quo.

## Dancing Modernism / Performing Politics

by Sherril Dodds (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5



Language : English  
File size : 7149 KB  
Text-to-Speech: Enabled  
Screen Reader: Supported  
Print length : 54 pages



## **Political Aesthetics: The Triumph of Expression**

Dodds emphasizes the inherent political nature of dance by exploring how choreographers utilized movement to convey social, cultural, and political messages. She analyzes iconic dance works, such as Martha Graham's politically charged piece "Chronicle" or José Limón's emotional portrayal of inequality in "The Moor's Pavane," shedding light on the nuanced ways in which political ideas were embodied and expressed through movement.

In addition to examining well-known dance figures, Dodds also brings attention to lesser-known marginalized voices within the modernist dance scene. By giving visibility to artists who have been historically overlooked, she reveals the diverse range of political perspectives that contributed to the development of modern dance. Through meticulous research and detailed analysis, Dodds vividly captures the complexities and nuances of these performances, ensuring their lasting recognition.

## **A New Perspective on Modernity and Politics**

Dancing Modernism Performing Politics challenges traditional perceptions of modernism as primarily a literary and visual art movement. By focusing on dance,

Dodds uncovers a hidden dimension of modernist culture that adds depth and richness to our understanding of this transformative period in history.

Throughout the book, Dodds explores how modernist dance was intertwined with pressing political issues of the time, including feminism, nationalism, and the rise of totalitarian regimes. By bringing attention to the political implications of dance, Dodds invites readers to reassess their understanding of how art forms reflect and respond to the social, cultural, and political events of their time.

## **The Enduring Relevance of Dance as Political Activism**

Dancing Modernism Performing Politics not only provides a comprehensive historical account of the relationship between dance and politics during the modernist era but also prompts critical reflections on the role of dance as a form of political activism in contemporary society.

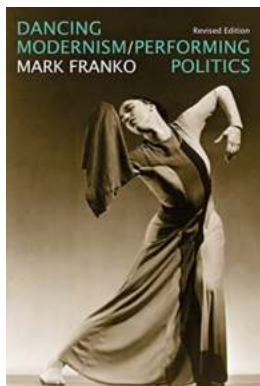
Dodds argues that dance remains a powerful tool for challenging social norms, fostering empathy, and voicing dissent. By examining the political impact of past dance movements, she invites readers to consider the potential for dance to inspire change and transform societies in the present day and beyond.

## **A Must-Read for Dance Enthusiasts and Scholars Alike**

Sherril Dodds' "Dancing Modernism Performing Politics" is an engaging and thought-provoking exploration of the intersection between dance and politics during the modernist era. Whether you are a dancer, a scholar of the arts, or simply interested in the transformative power of movement, this book offers invaluable insights into the political agency of dance as an art form.

By delving into the lives and works of dancers, choreographers, and political figures, Dodds brings to life a vibrant era of artistic expression and political

upheaval. "Dancing Modernism Performing Politics" provides a compelling argument for the enduring relevance of dance as a means of activism and self-expression, expanding our understanding of both the past and the present.



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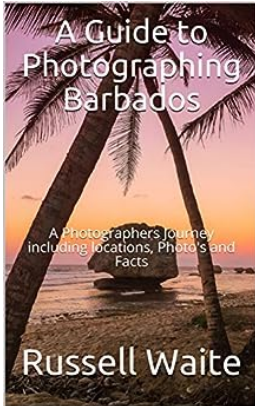
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In the much-anticipated update to a classic in dance studies, Mark Franko analyzes the political aspects of North American modern dance in the 20th century.

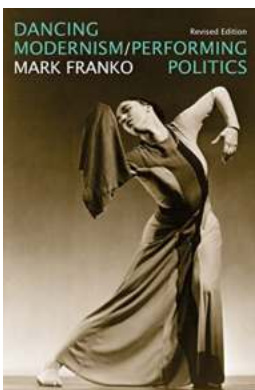
A revisionary account of the evolution of modern dance, this revised edition of *Dancing Modernism / Performing Politics* features a foreword by Juan Ignacio Vallejos on Franko's career, a new preface, a new chapter on Yvonne Rainer, a closing epilogue, and an appendix of left-wing dance theory articles from the 1930s. Questioning assumptions that dancing reflects culture, Franko employs a unique interdisciplinary approach to dance analysis that draws from cultural theory, feminist studies, and sexual, class, and modernist politics. Franko also highlights the stories of such dancers as Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, and even revolutionaries like Douglas Dunn in order to upend and contradict ideas on autonomy and traditionally accepted modernist dance history.

Revealing the captivating development of modern dance, this revised edition of *Dancing Modernism / Performing Politics* will fascinate anyone interested in the intersection of performance studies, history, and politics.



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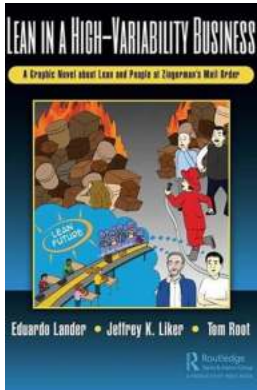
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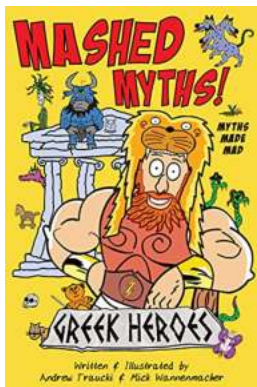
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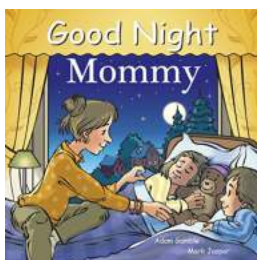
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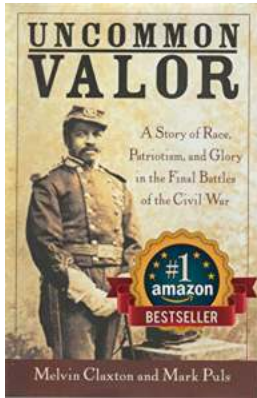
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