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# A Choreographer's Handbook



## Synopsis

On choreography: "Choreography is a negotiation with the patterns your body is thinking" On rules: "Try breaking the rules on a need to break the rules basis" A Choreographer's Handbook invites the reader to investigate how and why to make a dance performance. In an inspiring and unusually empowering sequence of stories, ideas and paradoxes, internationally renowned dancer, choreographer and teacher Jonathan Burrows explains how it's possible to navigate a course through this complex process. It is a stunning reflection on a personal practice and professional journey, and draws upon five years' of workshop discussions, led by Burrows. Burrows' open and honest prose gives the reader access to a range of exercises, meditations, principles and ideas on choreography that allow artists and dance-makers to find their own aesthetic process. It is a book for anyone interested in making performance, at whatever level and in whichever style.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (July 10, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415555302

ISBN-13: 978-0415555302

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #71,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Dance #44 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #5586 in Books > Humor & Entertainment

## Customer Reviews

'It proposes clear, but simultaneously cryptic advices applicable to a broad church of performance and dance making-dilemmas. Well worth ordering' - Tim Etchells, Artistic Director of Forced Entertainment 'The book covers thematic topics such as 'Collaboration', 'Material' and 'Mentoring' in playful ways, making bold statements but also cheekily suggesting that the opposite may also be true. It is a thought-provoking read, but also a useful manual on approaching performance for teachers, students and practitioners, that attempts to go beneath the layers of performing and making performance works.' - Emma Meehan, Dance Notes

Jonathan Burrows has toured and worked internationally as a dancer and choreographer. In 2002 he was commended by the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts in New York for his contribution to contemporary dance, and in 2004 he received a New York Dance and Performance 'Bessie' for his work 'Both Sitting Duet'. He has made commissioned work for many companies, including William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt, Sylvie Guillem and The Royal Ballet. He has been Visiting Professor at the Royal Holloway University of London and the University of Hamburg.

I love this quirky little book. For professional modern dancers and graduate level students, this book offers questions and inspiration. I highly recommend adding it to the reading list for a graduate level choreography class.

I did not know what to expect when I ordered this little gem on-line. I am presently working on a large piece of dance theater and I really found this book to be helpful and encouraging. It's unusual style added to the push to think more creatively. It gave me new found bravery!

I purchased this as a gift for my granddaughter; she loves it. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in learning and teaching dance. Pat

If you don't know what to get the budding choreographer in your life, this might be the one. It's an inspiring book.

This is a great book for choreographers of all levels. Written in an easy and accessible way of independent paragraphs, it is both inviting and fun.

I was disappointed. As a teacher and choreographer, I was expecting this book to be more like a TOOL or guideline, rather than a scatter-brained collection of the authors opinion on choreographing.

I recommend this book to anyone, I mean anyone who choreographs. It can speak to the beginning as well as the accomplished choreographer. It's easy and fun to read.

Some good exercises, but fatally crippled by a pervasive "Do this. Unless it's not helpful! Then don't do it" ambivalence. Recommended for library borrowing and note-taking, but not a necessary

purchase.

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