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The Dance Technique Of Doris Humphrey And Its Creative Potential



Synopsis

Book by Stodelle, Ernestine

Book Information

Hardcover: 264 pages

Publisher: Princeton Book Co (1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 091662207X

ISBN-13: 978-0916622077

Package Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.6 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #708,925 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Modern #57876 in Books > Humor & Entertainment

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It is unfortunate that this book is out of print, for it is one of the few written that gives insight into the dance technique of one of the pioneers of modern dance in the 20th century. Known to many students of modern dance as Humphrey-Weidman technique, with reference to Humphrey's collaborator Charles Weidman, it is a dance form that has taken root not only in the dance classroom, but in rhythmic studies and dance notation. The author had known Doris Humphrey personally, taken her classes, and has given dance enthusiasts a fine book here, comprehensive in content, and one that also gives insight into Humphrey's influence of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. The book offers a study of Humphrey's dance technique that is based on Nietzsche's philosophy of aesthetics, namely his thinking on the dual nature of humankind: the Dionysian and the Apollonian. When reading the book, one is led to the conclusion that Humphrey was one of the more analytical of the 20th century choreographers. Following Nietzsche, her technique emphasized the individual need for adventure, to "get out of equilibrium". But a sustained attempt to remain like this, for the dancer to be always off-balance, implies for Humphrey a "dynamic death

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