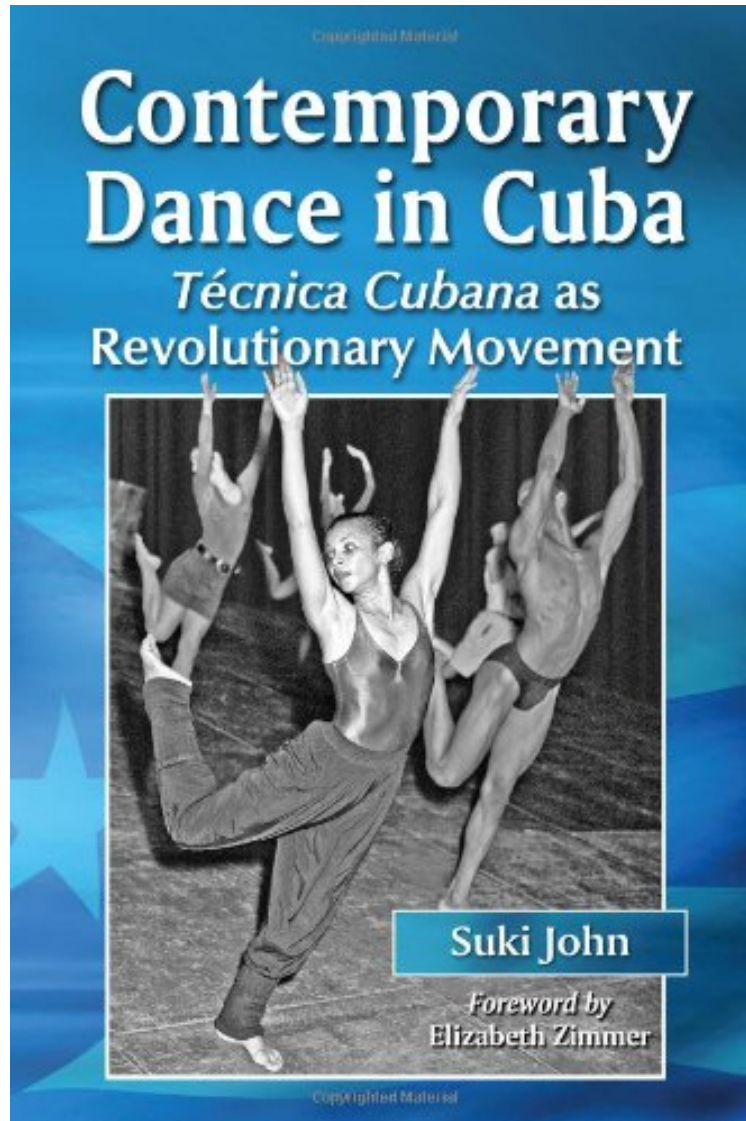


Contemporary Dance in Cuba: Tecnica Cubana as Revolutionary Movement

Suki John, Foreword by Elizabeth Zimmer
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Suki John, Foreword by Elizabeth Zimmer : Contemporary Dance in Cuba: Tecnica Cubana as Revolutionary Movement before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contemporary Dance in Cuba: Tecnica Cubana as Revolutionary Movement:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. strong academic text with a personal narrative twistBy librarianshannonSuki John has written a well-researched yet personal memoir on a contemporary dance movement in

Cuba. *Tecnica Cubana* is both an art form and a political entity; it requires an understanding of many dance practices as well as knowing popular Cuban culture. Ms. John's frequent travels to the island account for the book's personal narrative and interviews with Cuba's most important choreographers. Because of this, *Contemporary Dance in Cuba* is a necessary text for anyone studying dance or Cuban culture. In an age lacking strong communication between the island and the United States, Ms. John's book also provides an unusual glimpse into the national pride of the Cuban people. I received a free copy of this book through LibraryThing in exchange for a review.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Dance Movements* By Michael Polgar, PhD Every reader and consumer of our modern performing arts should consider where and how movements express social changes and progress. *Tecnica Cubana* is a fine expression of human liberation through choreographed movements, chronicled by the ebullient (but never bullying) choreographer and writer Dr. Suki John. Thanks for helping us learn, write, and speak about dance, demonstrating the values of both creative and social movements around the world!

The lens of dance can provide a multifaceted view of the present-day Cuban experience. Cuban contemporary dance, or *tecnica cubana* as it is known throughout Latin America, is a highly evolved hybrid of ballet, North American modern dance, Afro-Cuban tradition, flamenco and Cuban nightclub cabaret. Unlike most dance forms, *tecnica* was created intentionally with government backing. For Cuba, a dancing country, it was natural--and highly effective--for the Revolutionary regime to link national image with the visceral power of dance. Written by a dancer who traveled and worked in Cuba from the 1970s to the present, this book provides an inside look at daily life in Cuba. From watching the great Alicia Alonso, to describing the economic trials of the 1990s "Special Period," the author uses history, humor, personal experience, rich description and extensive interviews to reveal contemporary life and dance in Cuba.

"Suki John's book on Cuban dance is superb. She skillfully and expertly guides us through the mazes of one of the most dance-creative nations on earth. Cuba gave us mambo, rumba, danzon, habanera. John updates all that, showing how Cuba perennially transforms the human body into a rich and ready art form. Strongly recommended." -- Robert Farris Thompson, author of *Tango: The Art History of Love and Aesthetic of the Cool* About the Author Suki John has published articles in the *New York Times*, *Four Seasons Magazine*, *Village Voice*, *Dance Magazine*, *Pointe*, *Ballet-tanz International*, *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Dance*, *Caribbean Dance*, and *Dance Research Journal*. She has choreographed for Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Compañía Narciso Medina, People's Yugoslav Theater, Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, Ritmo Flamenco, The 92nd St. Y, DIA Foundation, and The Culture Project. She is an assistant professor in the School for Classical Contemporary Dance, Texas Christian University.