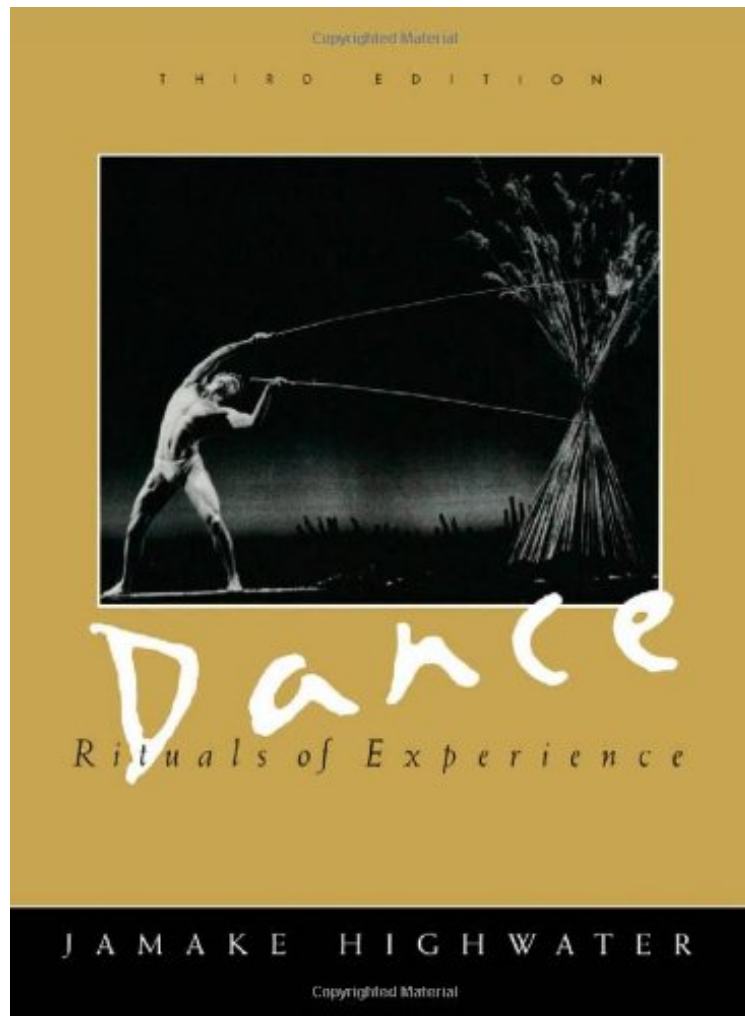


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Dance: Rituals of Experience

Jamake Highwater

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Jamake Highwater : Dance: Rituals of Experience before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dance: Rituals of Experience:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Best Book on Dance By A Customer Most dance books are pretty lightweight. This one is a knockout. Highwater has this way of connecting things, and here he seems to be connecting the history of the human body with the social attitudes of different times and different places. The way we dance is the way we are. On the jacket choreographer Erick Hawkins tells us that this is "the most important book on dance ever published in America." He should know. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A passionate and knowledgeable treatment of dance By A Customer We know no other book on dance with the same passion and deep understanding that Highwater brings to this one. Even the fantastic illustrations give a sense of the movement and

development of the power of this great art, and the text just as vividly explores dance's ritual, mythic, and subconscious elements, showing us at every juncture how, through the movement of the dance, our inner and outer lives meet.

This book presents a powerful view of the history of dance, contrasting its role in Western civilization with its significance in other cultures. Highwater--a renowned critic, author, and lecturer on art, theater, music, and dance--links the history of dance to cultural forces as diverse as Karl Marx and Elvis Presley. Beginning with the original, ritualistic, and primal forms of dance, he traces its decline into empty ceremonial forms while all along insisting that dance is a fundamental life impulse made visible in motion--a spontaneous transformation of experience into metaphoric meaning. Considering the historical and creative context from which dance emerged, Highwater goes on to point out the specific contributions and cultural influences of such 20th-century dance giants as Isadora Duncan, Twyla Tharp, Robert Wilson, George Balanchine, Martha Graham, Alwin Nikolais, Erick Hawkins, Jose Limon, Merce Cunningham, Meredith Monk, and Garth Fagan. Also examined are many newer artists, such as Bebe Miller and the Urban Bush Women.