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Dance Writings

Edwin Denby

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Edwin Denby : Dance Writings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dance Writings:

From Publishers WeeklyFor more than 30 years the most distinguished American dance critic of his time, Denby

(1903-1983) wrote for *Modern Music*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, *Ballet*, *Dance Magazine* and other periodicals. In this mammoth volume, Cornfield and Mackay have brought together revised versions of many of the pieces collected in two previous volumes, plus others not hitherto published in book form, and rearranged them chronologically and topically. Courteously, unassertive but precise, concerned, concise and sometimes severe in his criticism, Denby was convinced that dance was not only a social and physical activity but also a joyous, moral one that "affirmed the beauty of the human spirit." His exemplary artists were Alicia Markova, Alexandra Danilova, Martha Graham and George Balanchine, but he also wrote with care and generosity about dancers as varied as Nijinsky, Pearl Primus, Merce Cunningham and Sonja Henie. Cornfield's introduction is both appreciative and discerning; Mackay's biography sensitively describes a poet, dancer, novelist, translator and critic of high standards who was widely liked and admired. Essential for serious balletomanes. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. *Dance Writings* is dance criticism at its very best. For 30 years Denby, who died in 1983, reviewed and analyzed dance, first for a small journal, *Modern Music*, then for the *New York Herald Tribune* and a number of magazines. He was above all an advocate for the art and a man with high artistic standards. His criticism is a rare blend: constructively critical and never petty or cruel, and instructive to dancers, viewers, and choreographers. His eye was keen and no detail went unnoticed. His prose is elegant and his opinions were clearly stated. This collection comprises a mini-history of dance in the United States from 1936 to 1965. Since other of Denby's writings are out of print, this is a highly desirable purchase for most libraries. Joan Stahl, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. "There are great dance critics, and then there is Edwin Denby, who is in a class by himself." -- Mindy Aloff