

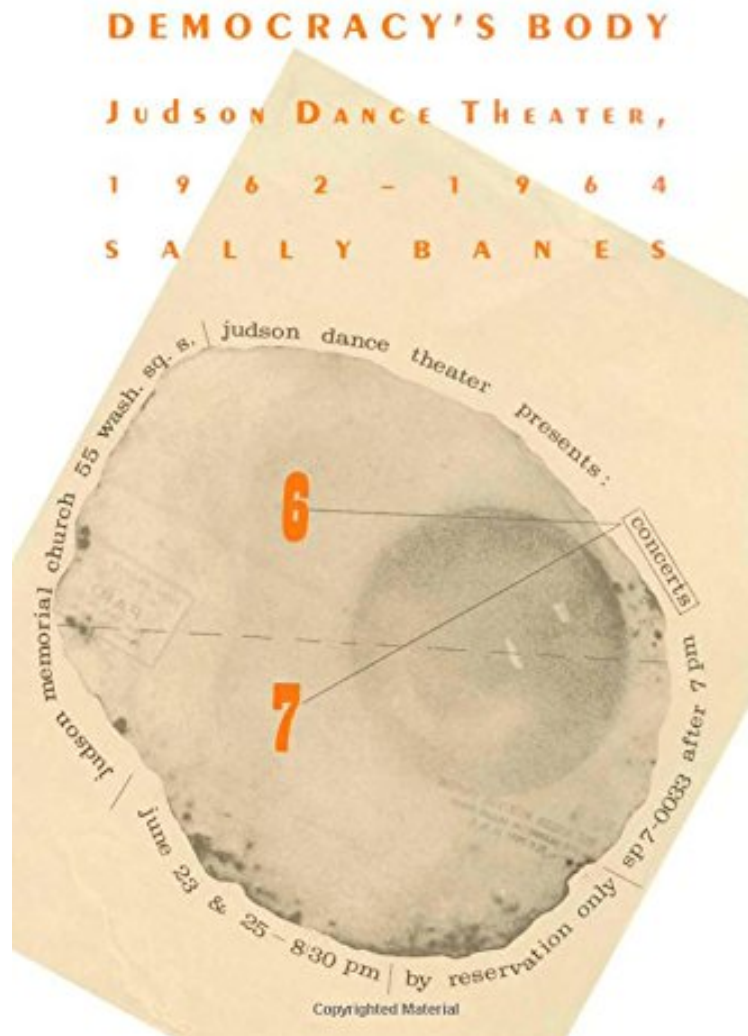
[Download free ebook] Democracy's Body: Judson Dance Theatre, 19621964

Democracy's Body: Judson Dance Theatre, 19621964

Sally Banes

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Sally Banes : Democracy's Body: Judson Dance Theatre, 19621964 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Democracy's Body: Judson Dance Theatre, 19621964:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Client everything ok10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Judson Dance Theater: Everything You Need To KnowBy Sarah HausThis book is an historical account of the Judson Dance Theater. Through interviews of the members of Judson, reviews, and research, Banes creates an incredibly thorough documentation of these two years. Every teacher, mentor, advisor, critic, dancer,

choreographer, visual artist, musician, critic, stage manager, and lighting designer connected either directly or peripherally with the Judson Group is mentioned in this book. Vivid descriptions of the dances in each concert have been pieced together through Bane's extensive research. The title refers to the Judson commitment to the collective process and the reduction of hierarchical relationships between dancers and choreographers, traditional technique and pedestrian movement, and content and form. Numerous artists from different mediums participated in the over 200 dances presented by Judson Theater in the 2 years that the group was active. Some notable members include: Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, Steve Paxton, Fred Herko, Elaine Summers, Robert Morris, Deborah and Alan Hay, David Gordon, Judith and Robert Dunn, Lucinda Childs, and Robert Rauschenberg. Bane's thoroughness makes the book a bit dense in places. I sometimes longed for visual aides when I read the detailed descriptions of the dances in each concert. Yet, also due to this thoroughness, I felt that I really got to know some of the personalities involved in the group, such as; Steve Paxton and Yvonne Rainer. I particularly enjoyed learning about the development and flux in momentum of this revolutionary moment in dance. It was a wonderful surprise to be introduced to the writings of critic Jill Johnston through this book. I recommend "Marmalade Me" (a collection of Jill's writings from 1960-69) as a compliment to this book.

Democracy's Body offers a lively, detailed account of the beginnings of the Judson Dance Theater--a popular center of dance experimentation in New York's Greenwich Village--and its place in the larger history of the avant-garde art scene of the 1960s. JDT started when Robert Dunn, a student of John Cage, offered a dance composition class in Merce Cunningham's studio. The performers--many of whom included some of the most prominent figures in the arts in the early sixties--found a welcome performance home in the Judson Memorial Church in the Village. Sally Banes's account draws on interviews, letters, diaries, films, and reconstructions of dances to paint a portrait of the rich culture of Judson, which was the seedbed for postmodern dance and the first avant-garde movement in dance theater since the modern dance of the 1930s and 1940s. Originally published in 1983, this edition brings back into print a highly regarded work of dance history.

"Anyone interested in choreography or methods of teaching composition must have this book on the shelf. . . Th[is] book is crucial in understanding our history and in appreciating the shape of dance today. Dancers and choreographers need to read it to learn about their heritage, historians to discover clarity about a rambunctious and exciting period of dance history that has been fuzzy with myth and misunderstanding. . . It must be read." Sally Sommer, *Dance Research Journal* (from a review of the 1983 edition)