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Masters Of Movement: Portraits Of America's Great Choreographers



Synopsis

Where does the impulse to create originate? How does one cope with the highs and lows of the artist's life? What is the choreographer's responsibility to the dancers, the audience, the self? These are just a few of the probing questions that Rose Eichenbaum, a dancer turned photographer, asks 59 of America's most celebrated choreographers in her five-year quest to understand the secrets of creativity. A collection of photographic portraits and vignettes based on intimate conversations, *Masters of Movement* takes us on a rare journey into the world of dance, from the concert stage and Broadway to feature films and music videos. Whether through her lens or through the revelations emanating from her masterful interviews, Eichenbaum has succeeded in capturing the essential character of her subjects, who confide experiences and emotions that have driven their creativity and defined their styles. *Masters of Movement* will inform, empower, and inspire anyone on the creative path—and delight lovers of dance everywhere.

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Customer Reviews

One might quibble with the title of this volume of photographic portraits and interviews; several of the subjects, like Edward Villella and Ann Reinking, are more notable as dancers than as choreographers. And one might wonder about omissions: the great tap dancer Gregory Hines is here, but why not Savion Glover? Nevertheless, both Eichenbaum's black-and-white images and her subjects' words will please dance lovers. Her range of styles is broadly inclusive: from ballet (Eliot Feld) to jazz (Luigi), flamenco (José Greco) to music videos (Vincent Patterson,

who has choreographed for Michael Jackson and Madonna). Eichenbaum captures the essence of each dancer she profiles: nonagenarian Katherine Dunham tells an audience, "I am still unfulfilled... I am rich and full, but I know there is so much more to learn." Eichenbaum can be delightfully unfawning: her double exposure of a temperamental and uncooperative Mark Morris is, she writes, "a sort of illustrated inflated ego." Other celebrity choreographers include Susan Stroman and Judith Jamison, but many of her subjects will be known only to those who follow the dance scene closely. For those aficionados, this is a lovely gift book. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Eichenbaum’s firsthand knowledge of dance, her passion for dancing and the people who do it, and her appreciation of the minutiae of lives, both everyday and Olympian, all combine to open windows onto the soul of dance and the lives of those who helped to define and shape the art in 20th-century America.”
•Jennifer Dunning, dance critic, New York Times
“The uncanny intelligence and grace with which Rose Eichenbaum has exposed the intention and essence of each performer move me. Then there are her words. Rose is a storyteller, and she tells the stories of the greatest American choreographers of the second half of the 20th-century. Her contribution to the preservation of our art form is a gift.”
•Barbara Kaplan, publisher, Dance magazine
“The unique pairing of provocative photographs with personal and informal biographical interviews is full of important insights into both the art and craft of dance. An appealing book rich with significant content.”
•Allegra Fuller Snyder, professor emerita and former chair of dance at the University of California, Los Angeles

I SAW GREGORY HINES ON THE COVER AND BOUGHT IT. HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO DO MORE THAN FLIP THRU BUT SHE FOUND SOME GREAT DANCERS TO INTERVIEW. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING IT. I FOUND IT IN THE WAREHOUSE FOR 1.98. I HAVE TO RE-ATTACH THE COVER, BUT IT WAS IN THE DESCRIPTION THAT THE COVER WAS DAMAGED.

I enjoyed the photos, but did not care for author’s interviews. I found the interviews to be predictable and at times immature and narcissistic.

Masters of Movement is a book for every lover of dance , dance student and those whose hearts

belong to dance. Each and every interview cements the idea of the connectivity of our creativity. The author has done a great deed assembling these moments for us to enjoy. It is wonderful that she was able to interview these creative creatures before some of them "moved on". Highly recommend it for anyone who has enjoyed: ballet, modern dance, jazz dancing, movies with a dance theme and those old Hollywood movies that had any kind of dancing in it. This book has something for everyone.

I expected to be wowed by the photos in Ms. Eichenbaum's book, as I have attended some of her photography exhibits. What I did not expect was that I would be so entertained by the interviews! I am not very familiar with the world of dance but with her interviews, she has portrayed the spirit, the style and the passions of each individual -- they are all very inspirational. And with the photos and the prose combined she has really captured the essence of these dancers. You do not need to be a dancer to appreciate this book!

I love this book. It is esthetically gorgeous. The text reveals the depth and complexity of these amazingly talented choreographers elicited by compelling and often humorous questions. I think Rose Eichenbaum's images and accompanying interviews show tremendous respect for her subjects. And they respond in turn by revealing so much both in front of the camera and as they speak to her of their art. If you are curious about who has been or is responsible for American dance today, you will want to read this book. Bravo!

As an artist and art educator, I am enthralled with the photos in this book. The design elements and knowledge of art and dance all combine to create a beautiful presentation of each dance artist. The wonderful part is that the dancers are shown in their own environment. The love, absolute love of what they are doing shows in every face. The text is something you want to sit down and absorb over and over. This book is not only for one familiar with dance, but lovers of photography and the arts also. Can't wait for more!

Never before have I encountered a book with such rich content dealing with the dance field and---photos no less, that truly capture these interesting and provocative dance artists. Not only did the book peak my interest about the field, it inspired me to consider going to the theater for a evening of dance--something I haven't done in years. I recommend this book to dancers, educators and average people who simply want to be inspired. Jack Caffrey

Lavish treatment of the American Dance scene. Warm in tone, intriguing and evocative in purpose. Photos are emotional and revealing. A 'must have' for anyone passionate about the art of dance and the dancer.

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