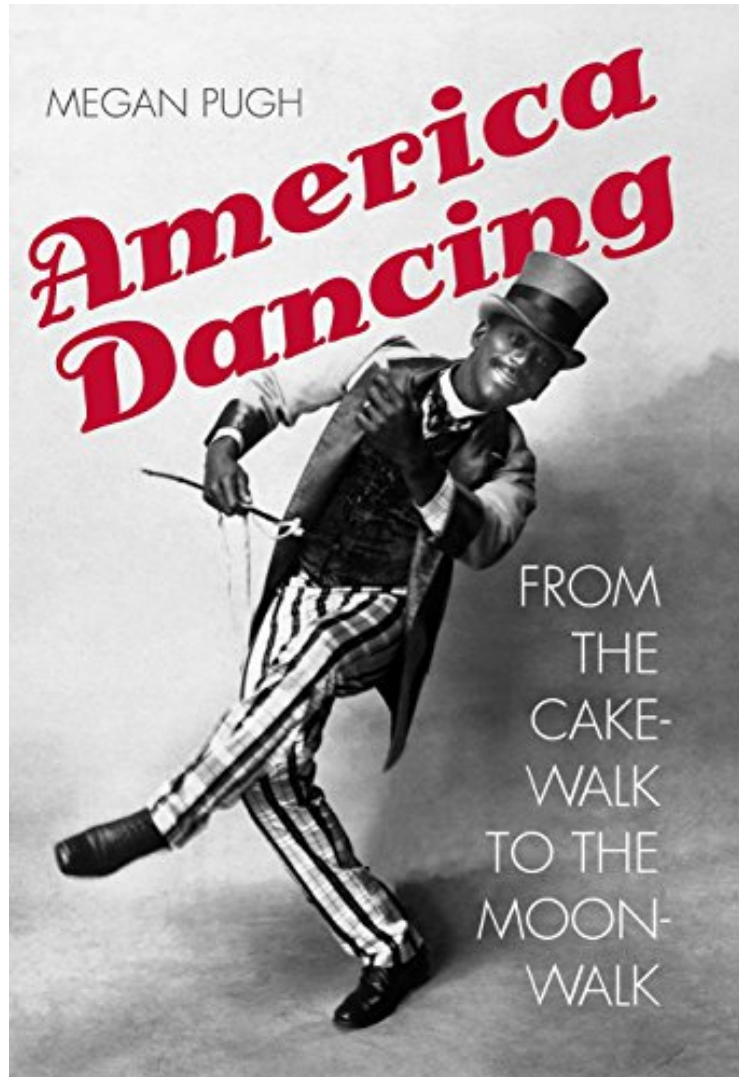


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America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk

Megan Pugh

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Megan Pugh : America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk:

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant book, elegant proseBy Eliza MarsalicBrilliant book, elegant prose. This book offers an entirely new way to think about the history of American dance. Such a pleasurable and informative read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History of American Dancing and DancersBy bookwomen37As a dancer and a follower of dancing there were no new names in this book and there are lots of names missing but there were some new theories. The author begins with the Cakewalk then moves to Bill Robinson, Fred and Ginger, Agnes De Mille, Paul Taylor and ends with Michael Jackson's Moonwalk. The author also uses dance as a

mirror for racism in the US. I did not always agree with the author's conclusions but they are interesting. I was disappointed in many of the names that were missing. I would also have liked more photographs. Where photographs or film are not available the author does a very good job of describing the dances. You can also Youtube many of the dancers. The book is very easy to read esp for someone not familiar with the dances and dancers. If you have an interest in the history of dance and entertainment you will enjoy this book. I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for my honest review. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's amazing to see how much history Michael Jackson moonwalked through. By Speedy Murrell. As the New York Times noted, Pugh writes with a dancer's rhythm and acute sense of movement. It's amazing to see how much history Michael Jackson moonwalked through. It's all told with verve and arresting poignance, like the time the NYPD locked up Bill "Bojangles" Robinson for loitering while he stood in the street admiring his name in lights on a theater marquee. Five stars way up!

An exuberant history of American dance, told through the lives of virtuoso performers who have defined the art. The history of American dance reflects the nation's tangled culture. Dancers from wildly different backgrounds learned, imitated, and stole from one another. Audiences everywhere embraced the result as deeply American. Using the stories of tapper Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, ballet and Broadway choreographer Agnes de Mille, choreographer Paul Taylor, and Michael Jackson, Megan Pugh shows how freedom that nebulous, contested American ideal emerges as a genre-defining aesthetic. In Pugh's account, ballerinas mingle with slumming thrill-seekers, and hoedowns show up on elite opera house stages. Steps invented by slaves on antebellum plantations captivate the British royalty and the Parisian avant-garde. Dances were better boundary crossers than their dancers, however, and the issues of race and class that haunt everyday life shadow American dance as well. Deftly narrated, *America Dancing* demonstrates the centrality of dance in American art, life, and identity, taking us to watershed moments when the nation worked out a sense of itself through public movement.

"As signifying dancers, men and women fly out of this deep, long-nurtured book. In clear and sensual prose, Megan Pugh has fashioned a history of modern America in gestures and movement. The pages never hold still." GREIL MARCUS, author of *The History of Rock 'n' Roll in Ten Songs* and *Real Life Rock*