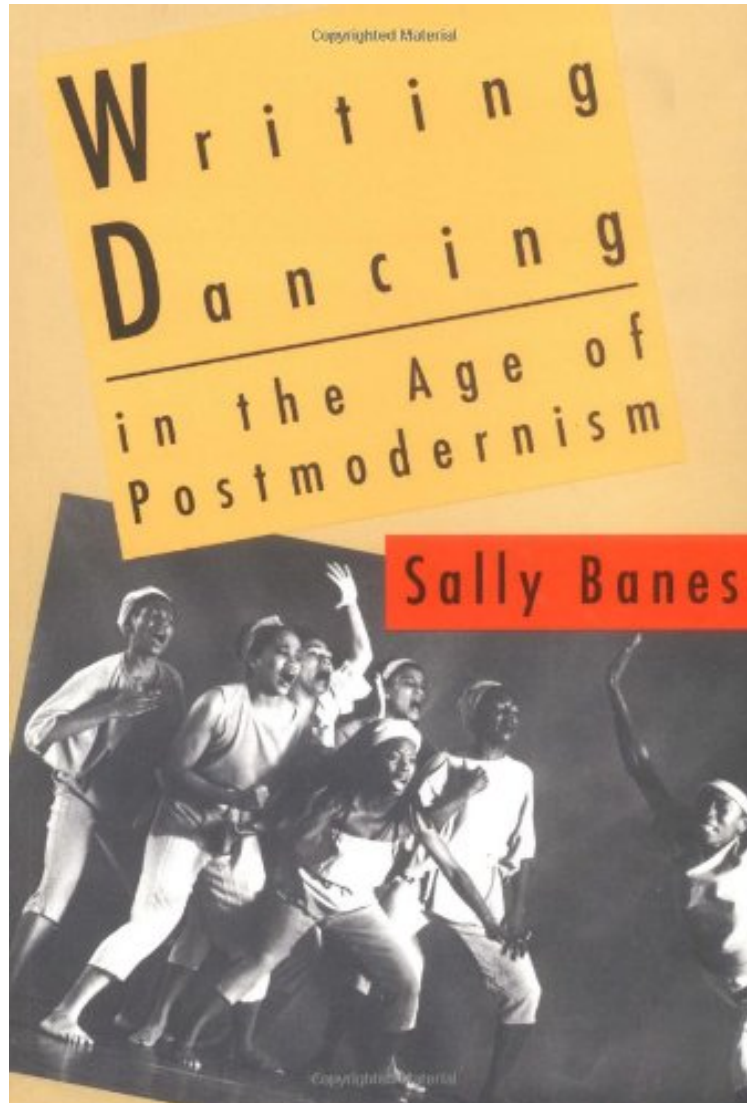


Writing Dancing in the Age of Postmodernism

Sally Banes

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Sally Banes : Writing Dancing in the Age of Postmodernism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Dancing in the Age of Postmodernism:

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Drawing of the postmodern perspective and concerns that informed her groundbreaking *Terpsichore in Sneakers*, Sally Banes' *Writing Dancing* documents the background and developments of avant-garde and popular dance, analyzing individual artists, performances, and entire dance movements. With a sure grasp of shifting cultural dynamics, Banes

shows how postmodern dance is integrally connected to other oppositional, often marginalized strands of dance culture, and considers how certain kinds of dance move from the margins to the mainstream. Banes begins by considering the act of dance criticism itself, exploring its modes, methods, and underlying assumptions, and examining the work of other critics. She traces the development of contemporary dance from the early work of such influential figures as Merce Cunningham and George Balanchine to such contemporary choreographers as Molissa Fenley, Karole Armitage, and Michael Clark. She analyzes the contributions of the Judson Dance Theatre and the Workers Dance League, the emergence of Latin postmodern dance in New York, and the impact of black jazz in Russia. In addition, Banes explores such untraditional performance modes as breakdancing and the drunk dancing of Fred Astaire.

From School Library Journal Banes (theater and drama, Univ. of Wisconsin) has been writing about dance for 20 years. Her *Terpsichore in Sneakers: Post-Modern Dance* (1979) was groundbreaking in its serious treatment of contemporary, avant-garde dance, a subject she continues to investigate in this rich collection of published and unpublished pieces. Together, the offerings chart the evolution of Banes as a dance critic and the evolution of contemporary dance. They are divided into five sections and range from Ballet Suedois to Merce Cunningham and Marcel Duchamp to breakdancing to Latina choreographers. Banes's observations are ever astute and thought-provoking. Recommended for dance collections in public, academic, and special libraries. Joan Stahl, National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C. Bunch, William. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Impressively rich and varied . . . A very important addition to the literature of the field for graduate students in dance history, performance art history, post-modern culture and for interested undergraduates doing research in these areas." -- Janice Ross, Stanford University "Impressively rich and varied . . . A very important addition to the literature of the field for graduate students in dance history, performance art history, post-modern culture and for interested undergraduates doing research in these areas. (Janice Ross, Stanford University) Sally Banes has followed the development of postmodern dance more thoroughly than anyone. She is the person to analyze the nature and significance of this important movement (Selma Jeanne Cohen)