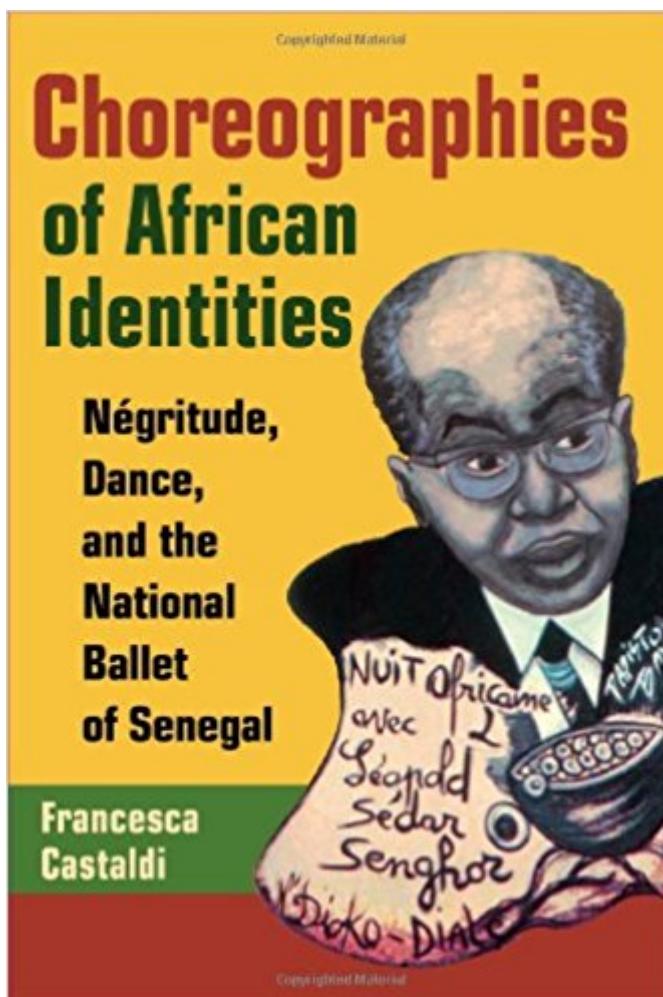


The book was found

Choreographies Of African Identities: Negritude, Dance, And The National Ballet Of Senegal



Synopsis

Choreographies of African Identities traces interconnected interpretative frameworks around and about the National Ballet of Senegal. Using the metaphor of a dancing circle Castaldi's arguments cover the full spectrum of performance, from production to circulation and reception. Castaldi first situates the reader in a North American theatre, focusing on the relationship between dancers and audiences as that between black performers and white spectators. She then examines the work of the National Ballet in relation to Leopold Sedar Senghor's Negritude ideology and cultural politics. Finally, the author addresses the circulation of dances in the streets, discotheques, and courtyards of Dakar, drawing attention to women dancers' occupation of the urban landscape.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: University of Illinois Press (February 13, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0252072685

ISBN-13: 978-0252072680

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,784,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Ballet #132 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk #171 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance

Customer Reviews

"Castaldi was the first to publish an in-depth study of dance in Dakar, and hers is a very valuable contribution to a much neglected yet growing field. . . . I would highly recommend it to any reader concerned with the significance of performance in social life and the circulation of the performing arts within and out of Africa."--African Arts

Francesca Castaldi is an independent dance scholar and ethnographer.

Like the author, I saw the National Ballet of Senegal perform in 1995 and again at the Irvine Barclay Theater in 1998. In between, I traveled to Senegal to study with musicians of the Ballet, but my stay

was not as long-term or in-depth as that of the author. This book provided a lot of details about the historical and social context of the Ballet, and Senegalese dance in general, that really supplemented the knowledge I got from my time over there. There are good discussions about the relationship between the Ballet and traditional dance, about the contrast between professional groups like the Ballet and "street" dance like sabar gatherings, about the interface between Senegalese performers and Western audiences, and about the role of Senegalese dance in establishing African cultural identity. Interestingly, she concludes that continued adherence to the ideas of Senghor, who established the Ballet, would be counterproductive to the development and vitality of Senegalese dance and culture in general. The book is generally well-written and engaging, particularly when the author is describing her field research, but I found it tough to stay interested through a lot of the anthropological/sociological/ethnographic jargon-filled discussions. It often seemed to be an exercise in stuffing simple notions into technical categories to be plugged into some over-arching conceptual machinery--rather than just discussing the matter at hand. For instance, when Bouly Sonko, director of the Ballet, describes how his passion for dance developed in his youth, saying it was like a "virus" that just took him over, the author finds this "quite telling", saying that "the biomedical conceptualization of disease contrasts with indigenous conceptualizations, which tend to stress the somatic element in any sickness and the links between the physical body and the social body." This seems to overwork what is a fairly innocent remark made by Mr. Sonko. And I'm not sure what the chapter "Tales of Betrayal" adds to the discussion. The author's explanation doesn't help: "These 'Tales of Betrayal' are configured as the staging of a series of antagonisms intending to rupture essentialist assumptions of gender." Well, for all I know the author may be making contributions to ethnography and anthropology that are missed on me but appreciated by professionals in the field. In any event, interest in African dance seems to have continued to grow in the U.S., and this book would be of value to anyone interested in African music, dance, and culture in general.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Choreographies of African Identities: Negritude, Dance, and the National Ballet of Senegal African: African Recipes - The Very Best African Cookbook (African recipes, African cookbook, African cook book, African recipe, African recipe book) Cute Dance Journal Ballet: Lined Notebook for Girls, Perfect Gift for Dancers, Teachers ~ Unique Inspirational Quote Diary for Dance Students, Teacher~ Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Irish Dance 6 Arrangements - individual sheet music - by John W Schaum! Polka From The Golden Age, Sword Dance, Petrouchka Russian Dance, Chicken Reel, Rosamunde Ballet Music AND Mexican Hat Dance (Jarabe Tapatio) The Dance Fairies Boxed Set

(7 Books) (Rainbow Magic, #1: Bethany the Ballet Fairy; #2: Jade the Disco Fairy; #3: Rebecca the Rock 'n' Roll Fairy; #4: Tasha the Tap Dance Fairy; #5: Jessica the Jazz Fairy; #6: Serena the Salsa Fairy; #7: Isabelle the Ice Dance Fairy) Indian Modern Dance, Feminism and Transnationalism (New World Choreographies) Choreographies of 21st Century Wars (Oxford Studies in Dance Theory) The Secret of the Ballet Book: (Kids Fantasy Books, Ballerina Fiction) (Kids Mystery, Girls Books Ages 9-12, Ballet Stories, Dance Books, Kids Books, Kids Fantasy Books Ages 9-12) Lonely Planet the Gambia & Senegal (Lonely Planet the Gambia and Senegal, 1st ed) (Lonely Planet the Big Trip: Your Ultimate Guide to Gap Years & Overseas Adventures) Gambia & Senegal (Insight Guide Gambia & Senegal) Negritude Et Nouveaux Mondes Second Edition (French Edition) African Dance Trends (Dance and Fitness Trends) (Dance & Fitness Trends) How to Dance: Learn How to Line Dance, Belly Dance, Ice Dance and More Dance Anecdotes: Stories from the Worlds of Ballet, Broadway, the Ballroom, and Modern Dance Only the Brave Dance: Teacher or Student Quote Notebook, Journal or Diary ~ Unique Inspirational Gift for Dance School Class, Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, Thank You, End of Year, Retirement, Gratitude Choreography and Corporeality: Relay in Motion (New World Choreographies) Flowers Cracking Concrete: Eiko & Komaâ™s Asian/American Choreographies Ballet Beautiful: Transform Your Body and Gain the Strength, Grace, and Focus of a Ballet Dancer Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet Ballet Barre & Center Combinations: Volume II: Music (Ballet Barre and Center Combinations)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)