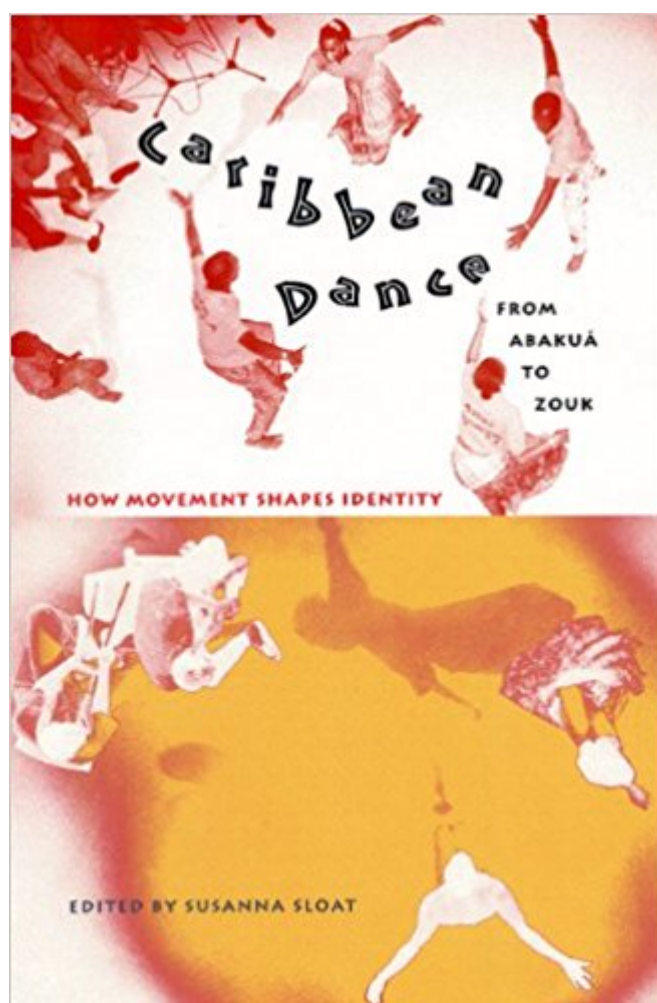


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Caribbean Dance From Abakuá To Zouk: How Movement Shapes Identity



Synopsis

Â Caribbean Dance from AbakuÃ¡ to Zouk is an unprecedented overview of the dances from each of this regionâ€™s major islands and the complex, fused, and layered cultures that gave birth to them. The authors in this collection, from distinguished cultural leaders to highly innovative choreographers, reveal how dance shapes personal, communal, and national identity. They also show how Caribbean rhythms, dances, fragments of movement, and even attitudes toward movement reach beyond the islands and through the extensive West Indian diaspora communities in North America, Latin America, and Europe to be embraced by the world at large. From the anthropological to the literary and from the practical to the creative, these dances are explored in the contexts of social history, tradition, ritual, and performance. Connections are made among a fascinating array of dances, both familiar and little known, from culturally based to newly created performance pieces. Particular emphasis is placed on the African contribution in making Caribbean dance distinctive. An extensive glossary of terms and more than 30 illustrations round out the book to make it the most complete resource on Caribbean dance available.Â

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Customer Reviews

"This groundbreaking work is an intriguing read for anyone who's ever spun out on a dancefloor, or wanted to." -- Village Voice, January 2003
The contributors to this volume offer many insights that even the seasoned scholar will find useful. -- Latin American Research Review Vol. 40, No. 3, October 2005
The writers use wit, wisdom and admirable research...to enlighten and teach readers

about this neglected area of dance. -- Dancer Magazine, December 2005 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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Excellent resource that analyzes Afro-Caribbean dance forms beyond mere steps. These varied dance cultures have been shaped by African, European, and indigenous peoples and these articles examine them in their complexity - from the folkloric to the concert stage and dance hall, examining questions of identity, power, and aesthetics. A must for any serious student of dance and African Diaspora in the Americas!

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