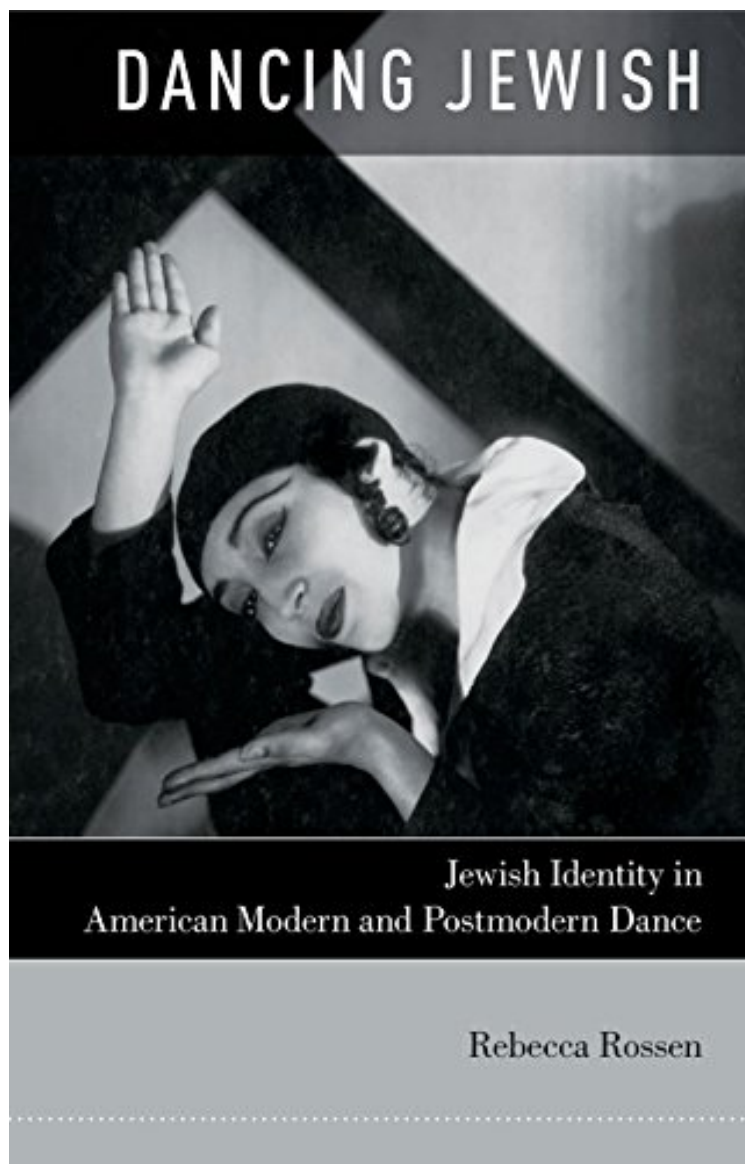


[Mobile book] Dancing Jewish: Jewish Identity in American Modern and Postmodern Dance

Dancing Jewish: Jewish Identity in American Modern and Postmodern Dance

Rebecca Rossen

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Rebecca Rossen : Dancing Jewish: Jewish Identity in American Modern and Postmodern Dance before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing Jewish: Jewish Identity in American Modern and Postmodern Dance:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Sublime ReadBy George RussellI thought this book would be interesting, but I didn't expect it to be jam-packed with surprises and page-turning well written and timely. This book

is sublime. If you know anything about modern dance, you'll appreciate knowing the who's who of Jewish modernism and you'll get a lot of new information (and clips of dance) that will fill it in for you. If you're Jewish, or, like me, a Jew wannabe, you'll love the many ways, from the folkloric to the philosophical, that Rebecca Rossen connects Judaism to dance and dance to Jews. Every page has a sentence I want to sew into a sampler. A really juicy and full read.

While Jews are commonly referred to as the "people of the book," American Jewish choreographers have consistently turned to dance as a means to articulate personal and collective identities; tangle with stereotypes; advance social and political agendas; and imagine new possibilities for themselves as individuals, artists, and Jews. *Dancing Jewish* delineates this rich history, demonstrating that Jewish choreographers have not only been vital contributors to American modern and postmodern dance, but that they have also played a critical and unacknowledged role in the history of Jews in the United States. A dancer and choreographer, as well as an historian, author Rebecca Rossen offers evocative analyses of dances while asserting the importance of embodied methodologies to academic research. Featuring over fifty images, a companion website, and key works from 1930 to 2005 by a wide range of artists - including David Dorfman, Dan Froot, David Gordon, Hadassah, Margaret Jenkins, Pauline Koner, Dvora Lapson, Liz Lerman, Sophie Maslow, Anna Sokolow, and Benjamin Zemach - *Dancing Jewish* offers a comprehensive framework for interpreting performance and establishes dance as a crucial site in which American Jews have grappled with cultural belonging, personal and collective histories, and the values that bind and pull them apart.

Recipient, Special Citation from the de la Torre Bueno Prize, Society of Dance History Scholars 2015 Oscar G. Brockett Book Prize for Dance Research, Congress on Research in Dance "She describes and annotates, with relish and care, selected Jewish-themed dances by Jewish choreographers (some early character pieces, some classic modern dances, some less known postmodern works), decoding markers of Jewishness and analyzing how they have evoked, transmitted, and modified ethnic and gender identity from the 1920s to the present. This is clearly a labor of love and sweat, dynamic balancing, and discovery." --Diana Scott, *Jewish Currents* "Rossen's deft interweaving of beautifully-written movement descriptions with rigorous scholarship produces a multifaceted analysis of the role of Jewish identity within the development of modern and postmodern dance. *Dancing Jewish* is an important original contribution to dance studies." --Ann Cooper Albright, author of *Engaging Bodies: the Politics and Poetics of Corporeality* "Rebecca Rossen's highly readable *Dancing Jewish* is a major contribution to both Jewish studies and dance/performance studies. Drawing on a rich mix of archival work, interviews with performers, and the author's personal experience as a dancer and choreographer, the book is a shining example of how performance-centered research can take us places that scholarship could not otherwise reach." --Henry Bial, University of Kansas, author of *Acting Jewish: Negotiating Ethnicity on the American Stage and Screen* "[T]he totality of Rossen's book project is a beautifully crafted testament to the multilayered, interdisciplinary, consciously constructed, communally achieved nature of the topic she tackles." --*Dance Journal* "This excellent book is simultaneously a performance history, an ethnic history, and a timely reminder to all who might forget that Jewishness still matters in the United States, not only to those who identify as Jewish, but to the vast majority of the population which doesn't. . . . Rossen's book reminds us, if we needed reminding, that Jewishness matters in America, and in American history too, especially in those histories written with our bodies, like dance." --Jane Desmond, *Studies in Theatre and Performance About the Author* Rebecca Rossen, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin