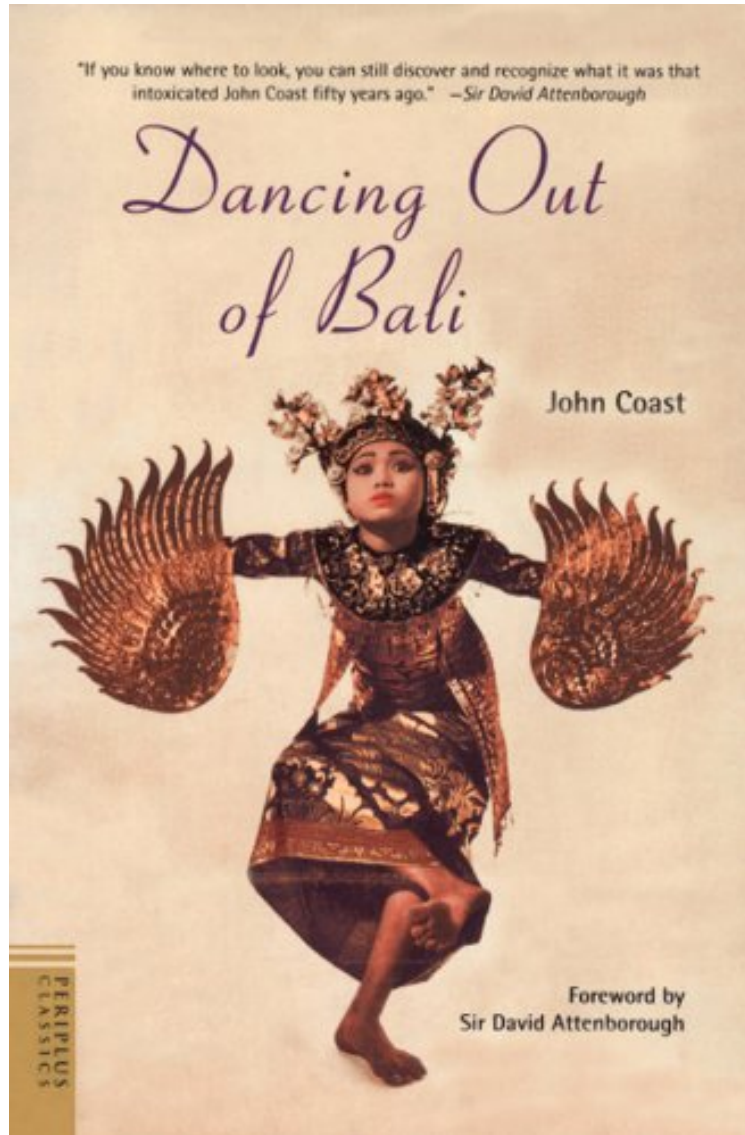


(Download) Dancing Out of Bali (Periplus Classics Series)

## Dancing Out of Bali (Periplus Classics Series)

*John Coast*

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**John Coast : Dancing Out of Bali (Periplus Classics Series)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing Out of Bali (Periplus Classics Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Does Bali a real justice after too many other books on self-absorbed fluffBy IndophileA delightful read of a place where I also live. When so many mediocre books have been coming out about the beauties of every kind of Indonesian art and cultural practice (written by people with no real idea of what their talking about or describing narcissistic New Age quests for paradise)--this book has something meaningful to say. I enjoyed it immensely. It's full of life.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sampih and other dancers

from "A House in Bali" By Donald E. Gilliland If you enjoyed reading "A House in Bali," Colin McPhee's classic account of Bali in the 1930s, you will also want to read this memoir by John Coast, detailing his own adventures in Bali in the early 1950s, culminating in a grand tour with the "Dancers of Bali" to Europe and the US. Like McPhee's book, Coast's "Dancing Out of Bali" offers the reader an illuminating look at traditional life in Bali ... some sixty years ago. But there are other threads that connect the two books, namely the people involved in the local dance scene such as Sampih, Mario, and Ida Bagus Boda. Coast's accounts of his conversations and adventures with the locals --- especially those involved in the unique Balinese dance scene --- is both funny and fascinating. It's also interesting to read about the headaches, diplomacy, and politics involved in getting permission for the dancers to tour overseas, and then the extra maze of details involved with organizing the shows, plus housing, transporting, and feeding such a large troupe overseas. Once I started reading the book, it was one of those that was difficult to put down. Coast is both a descriptive writer and an empathetic one, and his love for Bali and its people is evident on every page. I'd love to read more about John Coast's life after this book ends with the "Dancers of Bali" tour in 1953 (sadly, the lead male dancer, Sampih, was murdered back in Bali the following year). Apparently, this was only the beginning of a long and varied career for Coast in the entertainment business. According to the bio in the book, Coast went on to make films for BBC and became a leading figure in international performing arts as impresario and manager to many well-known artists, including Luciano Pavarotti. But these early years in Bali were clearly formative ones for him, and magical ones as well. A truly fascinating book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. OK read

By danny boy

In this book, John Coast wrote about his personal efforts on a project to bring out a Balinese dancing troupe to Europe and the States around the time of Indonesia's new found independence. However his description of specific people and events are quite revealing. There are two negative aspects of this book which detract from its purpose to tell a simple but great story. Firstly, Coast may not have realized it but his overtly paternalistic writing depicts the Balinese and Javanese as lacking in exposure and maturity. His attempt to create Balinese conversational speak with the non-vulgar "Beh!" expletive before every sentence indirectly ridicules the Balinese capacity for dialogue. The Balinese are also depicted as evasive and incompetent. His examples of their non-committal statements, inability to finish building his house is given here. Similarly, the Javanese are depicted as manipulative, always ready to subvert Coast's intentions with their own agendas. On the other hand, the Americans and Europeans are depicted as internationally-savvy folks. This may be because by default, they are, being well-heeled tourists and playwrights who pass through Bali on a tropical holiday. However, when contrasted with the treatment given to the Indonesians, Coast has inadvertently created a colonial divide between the twain. The second point is that the text meanders all over. There are truly great and interesting events which makes sense to be told here and some pedantic non-incidents which, in my opinion, should not have been included. As it is, there are telling insights into Javanese and Balinese mores and customs. The best bits are the artistic events, involving some of the legendary figures in Balinese dancing and performance art, such as Mario I Ketut, who created the Kebyar Duduk dance, and Gusti Raka, the star of this book. There are some great pictures and the story does paint a vivid impression of Bali during its tourism heyday and its time of great artistic achievement and innovation. Note that in this edition, some pages have been transposed towards the end. This creates some ambiguity on the chronology of the events.

"If you know where to look, you can still discover and recognize what it was that intoxicating John Coast fifty years ago." — Sir David Attenborough

This book is one of the great classics about Bali, now with dozens of illustrations and photographs. *Dancing out of Bali* is a fascinating personal account of a young Englishman who settled in a small house in Bali in the midst of the political turmoil that gripped postwar Indonesia. There, he immersed himself in Balinese culture and made ambitious plans to bring a troupe of Balinese dancers and musicians to Europe and America. The book relates John Coast's daring and remarkable adventure that took him from revolution in Indonesia to the footlights of London and Broadway. Within a few weeks, the troupe had captured the hearts of audiences. Here are photographs of Bali and stories of the performer's magic island and of the enchanting dancers, including the beautiful — year — old Ni Gusti Raka. She became a star overnight and delighted audiences everywhere during the troupe's triumphant tour. It is also a story of Balinese culture and life in Bali — following the devastating Japanese occupation — of music and dancing in Bali, of many of the island's great performing dancers and musicians,

"It is Bali felt, understood, loved, communicated — Coast has a kind of word magic." — New York Herald Tribune

About the Author John Coast (1916-1989) was interned by the Japanese during World War II and worked on the Thai-Burma Railway; following acclaimed work in books and film, he managed many well-known artists and dance troupes.