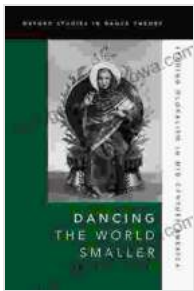


Staging Globalism in Mid-Century America: A Dance Historian's Perspective

The mid-20th century witnessed a profound shift in the global landscape, marked by the rise of the United States as a global superpower and the increasing interconnectedness of nations. This era also saw a surge in cultural exchange, as artists from around the world sought to share their traditions and perspectives. In the realm of dance, this period was particularly significant, as American choreographers began to incorporate elements from diverse cultures into their work, creating a new and vibrant form of global dance.



Dancing the World Smaller: Staging Globalism in Mid-Century America (Oxford Studies in Dance Theory)

by Kenneth Grahame

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4785 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 294 pages
Lending	: Enabled



In her groundbreaking book, *Staging Globalism in Mid-Century America: Oxford Studies in Dance Theory*, dance historian Julie Malnig explores this phenomenon, examining how American choreographers such as Martha

Graham, Merce Cunningham, and George Balanchine used dance to engage with global issues and promote cross-cultural understanding.

Martha Graham: Exploring American Identity through Globalism

Martha Graham, one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, was a pioneer in using dance to explore American identity. Her groundbreaking work, *Appalachian Spring* (1944), drew inspiration from American folk traditions and depicted the struggles and triumphs of pioneers in the American West. Graham's choreography captured the essence of American spirit and resilience, while also acknowledging the country's complex history.

In addition to her American-themed works, Graham also created dances that explored global themes. Her work, *Errand into the Maze* (1947), was inspired by Greek mythology and explored the universal themes of love, loss, and redemption. Graham's ability to blend American and global elements in her work created a unique and powerful form of dance that resonated with audiences around the world.

Merce Cunningham: Experimentation and Global Influence

Merce Cunningham, another visionary choreographer of the mid-20th century, was known for his experimental and innovative approach to dance. Cunningham's work was characterized by its use of chance operations, improvisation, and non-narrative structures. He believed that dance should not be limited by traditional forms or conventions, and he sought to create works that were both challenging and thought-provoking.

Cunningham's global influence was significant. He toured extensively throughout his career, and his work was seen by audiences in Europe, Asia, and South America. Cunningham's unique style of dance inspired a new generation of choreographers, and his work continues to be studied and performed around the world.

George Balanchine: Neoclassicism and Global Impact

George Balanchine, a Russian-born choreographer who emigrated to the United States in the 1920s, played a pivotal role in the development of neoclassicism in dance. Balanchine's work was characterized by its precision, elegance, and musicality. He believed that dance should be a vehicle for expressing pure beauty, and he sought to create works that were both timeless and universal.

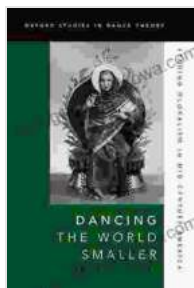
Balanchine's global impact was immense. He founded the New York City Ballet in 1948, which became one of the most prestigious dance companies in the world. Balanchine's work was seen by audiences around the globe, and his style of dance continues to be performed by dancers of all ages and nationalities.

The mid-20th century was a transformative period in the history of dance. American choreographers such as Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and George Balanchine used dance to engage with global issues, promote cross-cultural understanding, and create new and innovative forms of expression. Their work had a profound impact on the global dance landscape, and continues to inspire and influence choreographers and dancers around the world.

Julie Malnig's book, *Staging Globalism in Mid-Century America: Oxford Studies in Dance Theory*, provides a comprehensive and insightful examination of this important period in dance history. Malnig's scholarship is rigorous and engaging, and her writing is accessible to both scholars and general readers. This book is an essential resource for anyone interested in the history of dance, globalism, or American culture.

Image Alt Attributes

- Martha Graham performing "Appalachian Spring"
- Merce Cunningham performing "Suite for Five"
- George Balanchine performing "Serenade"



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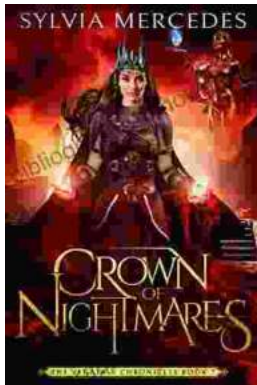
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