

Unlock the Enigmatic World of Butoh: A Comprehensive Guide



: Unveiling the Secrets of Butoh

Butoh, an avant-garde dance form that emerged from post-war Japan, has captivated audiences worldwide with its provocative and otherworldly aesthetic. *The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance* serves as an indispensable guide to this enigmatic and transformative art form. This comprehensive volume explores the history, philosophy, techniques, and global impact of Butoh, providing readers with an unparalleled understanding of its multifaceted nature.



The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance (Routledge Companions) by Bruce Baird

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 590 pages



Chapter 1: The Origins and Development of Butoh

This chapter traces the origins of Butoh to the work of Tatsumi Hijikata and Kazuo Ono, two pioneers who developed the form in the 1950s and 1960s. It examines the historical and cultural influences that shaped Butoh, including the aftermath of World War II, avant-garde theater, and Japanese traditional arts.

Chapter 2: The Philosophy and Aesthetics of Butoh

Butoh is not merely a dance technique but an entire philosophy and worldview. This chapter delves into the core principles that underlie Butoh, such as the acceptance of darkness, the embrace of the grotesque, and the exploration of the unconscious mind. It explores how these principles are expressed through Butoh's unique aesthetic, characterized by distorted body movements, grotesque makeup, and evocative lighting.

Chapter 3: Butoh Techniques and Training

The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance provides a detailed overview of the techniques that form the foundation of Butoh. Readers will

learn about the importance of body awareness, the use of tension and relaxation, and the exploration of different states of consciousness. The chapter also discusses the training methods employed by Butoh practitioners, including workshops, residencies, and collaborations.

Chapter 4: Butoh in Performance

Butoh is not just a dance form but a live experience that engages all the senses. This chapter examines the various ways in which Butoh is performed, from traditional stage productions to site-specific installations and experimental collaborations. It explores the role of music, lighting, and costume in enhancing the immersive and transformative nature of Butoh performances.

Chapter 5: Butoh and the Body

Butoh's focus on the body as a site of exploration and expression sets it apart from other dance forms. This chapter investigates the ways in which Butoh challenges conventional notions of the body, using it as a canvas for experimentation and transgression. It explores themes of deformity, beauty, and the relationship between the body and the subconscious mind.

Chapter 6: Butoh and Globalization

In recent decades, Butoh has gained international recognition and influence. This chapter examines the ways in which Butoh has spread across the globe, inspiring new generations of artists and performers. It explores the adaptations and reinterpretations of Butoh in different cultural contexts, highlighting its versatility and relevance in a globalized world.

: Butoh's Enduring Legacy

The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance concludes by reflecting on the enduring legacy of Butoh. It examines the impact that Butoh has had on contemporary dance, theater, and performance art. The volume also highlights the challenges and opportunities facing Butoh in the 21st century, emphasizing its potential for continued innovation and transformation.

Why Choose The Routledge Companion To Butoh Performance?

* **Comprehensive and authoritative:** Written by leading scholars and practitioners, this companion provides a comprehensive overview of Butoh, covering all aspects of its history, theory, and practice. * **Richly illustrated:** Over 50 illustrations, including photographs, drawings, and diagrams, enhance the reader's understanding of Butoh's unique aesthetic and techniques. * **Interdisciplinary approach:** The companion draws on insights from dance studies, theater, performance art, and cultural anthropology to provide a multifaceted perspective on Butoh. * **Global perspectives:** The book explores the international impact of Butoh, showcasing its adaptations and reinterpretations in different cultural contexts. * **Essential resource:** Whether you are a student, scholar, artist, or simply fascinated by Butoh, *The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance* is an indispensable resource that will deepen your understanding and appreciation of this enigmatic art form.



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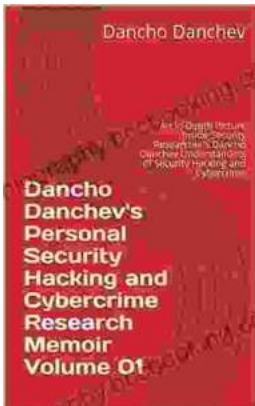
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