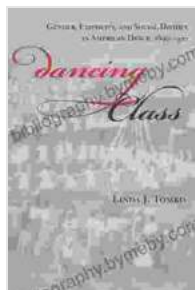


# Unnatural Acts: Unveiling the Interplay of Gender, Ethnicity, and Social Boundaries in American Dance



## Dancing Class: Gender, Ethnicity, and Social Divides in American Dance, 1890–1920 (Unnatural Acts)

by Linda J. Tomko

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3799 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 426 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The world of dance has long been intertwined with societal norms and expectations. In the United States, the period from 1890 to 1920 witnessed a profound transformation in dance, marked by the rise of new genres, the emergence of iconic performers, and the challenge of prevailing social divides. "Unnatural Acts: Gender, Ethnicity, and Social Divides in American Dance, 1890-1920" is a groundbreaking book that illuminates this transformative era, delving into the complex relationship between dance, gender, ethnicity, and the social landscapes that shaped it.

## Gender and the Revolution in Dance



During this period, gender played a pivotal role in shaping dance. The late 19th century saw the emergence of female performers who broke away from traditional ballet and pushed the boundaries of dance. One such figure was Loie Fuller, a pioneer of modern dance known for her mesmerizing Serpentine Dance. Fuller's fluid movements and innovative use of lighting challenged conventional notions of femininity and paved the way for women to assert their artistic independence.

## **Ethnicity and the Expression of Identity**

Ethnicity also played a significant role in influencing dance forms and styles. African American performers, such as the legendary Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, brought unique rhythms and dance techniques to the forefront. Robinson's tap dancing was not only a form of entertainment but also an expression of African American cultural heritage. Similarly, dancers hailing from other ethnic backgrounds, including Jewish and Asian immigrants, infused their performances with distinct cultural influences.

## **Social Divides and the Power of Dance**



The social landscape of the United States in the early 20th century was marked by deep divisions based on race, class, and gender. Dance became a powerful tool for challenging these divides and fostering a sense of community. In particular, the emergence of jazz and blues dances provided a space for marginalized groups to express themselves and create their own cultural identity.

## **Unveiling the Unseen**

"Unnatural Acts" goes beyond a mere historical account of dance. It delves into the social, political, and cultural contexts that shaped the development of dance and illuminates the ways in which gender, ethnicity, and social divisions intersected within this art form. Drawing on extensive research and meticulous analysis, the book reveals the hidden stories and forgotten figures that have shaped the American dance landscape.

## **A Must-Read for Dance Historians and Enthusiasts**

For dance historians, "Unnatural Acts" offers a fresh perspective on the transformative period in dance history. It provides a nuanced understanding of how social factors influenced dance aesthetics, techniques, and performance practices. For those fascinated by the intersection of art and society, the book provides a compelling case study of how dance can reflect and challenge social norms.

## **Free Download Your Copy Today**

If you are interested in deepening your knowledge of American dance history and exploring the complex interplay of gender, ethnicity, and social divides, "Unnatural Acts" is an indispensable resource. Free Download your

copy today and embark on a journey through a fascinating era of dance and social change.

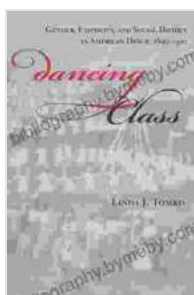
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## Reviews

"Unnatural Acts is a groundbreaking work that redefines our understanding of American dance. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of dance, gender studies, or the intersection of art and society." - Dr. Ann Cooper Albright, Professor of Dance History, New York University

"This book is a tour de force. It illuminates the hidden histories of marginalized dancers and reveals the ways in which dance has been used to challenge social boundaries. A truly eye-opening and thought-provoking work." - Professor Thomas F. DeFrantz, author of "Dancing Many Drums: Excavations in African American Dance"

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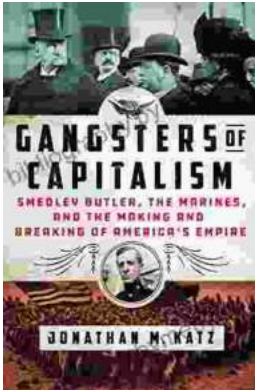
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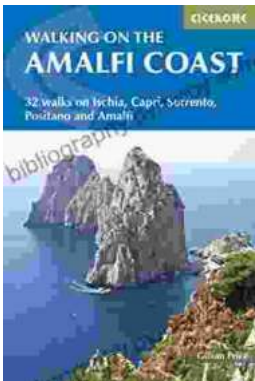
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