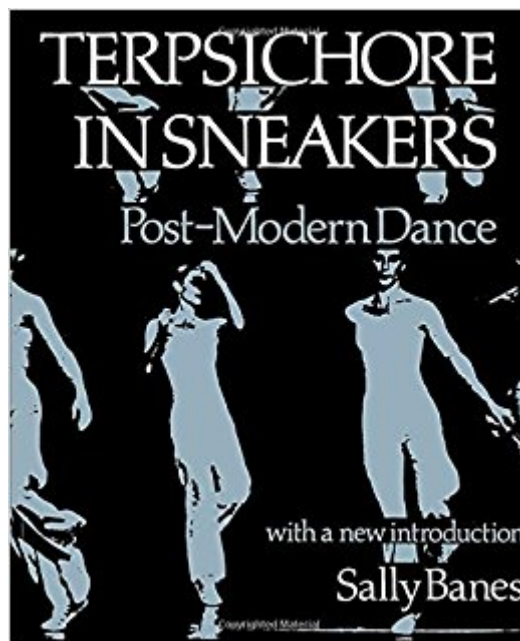




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# Terpsichore In Sneakers: Post-Modern Dance (Wesleyan Paperback)



## Synopsis

Drawing on the postmodern perspective and concerns that informed her groundbreaking *Terpischore in Sneakers*, Sally Banes's *Writing Dancing* documents the background and development of avant-garde and popular dance, analyzing individual artists, performances, and entire dance movements. With a sure grasp of shifting cultural dynamics, Banes shows how postmodern dance is integrally connected to other oppositional, often marginalized strands of dance culture, and considers how certain kinds of dance move from the margins to the mainstream. Banes begins by considering the act of dance criticism itself, exploring its modes, methods, and underlying assumptions and examining the work of other critics. She traces the development of contemporary dance from the early work of such influential figures as Merce Cunningham and George Balanchine to such contemporary choreographers as Molissa Fenley, Karole Armitage, and Michael Clark. She analyzes the contributions of the Judson Dance Theatre and the Workers' Dance League, the emergence of Latin postmodern dance in New York, and the impact of black jazz in Russia. In addition, Banes explores such untraditional performance modes as breakdancing and the "drunk dancing" of Fred Astaire.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Sally Banes writes criticism with a dancer's feel for dancing, a personal acquaintance with the choreographers she writes about, a solid knowledge of critical theory, and an

awareness of the many relationships of post-modernism to the contemporary cultural context. *Terpsichore in Sneakers* is a first-rate contribution. "The best book we have on post-modern dance." •Milton H. Snoeyenbos, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* "Banes' lucid assessment is a timely and extremely worthwhile book. Banes is highly respected as a dance critic, but she is also a conscientious historian, and it is this side of her that predominates the book." •Susan Reiter, *American Dance Guild Newsletter* "An impressive achievement and a valuable document of dance history." *Terpsichore in Sneakers* is going to be in demand for a long time, both as a guide to one of the least predictable realms of art and as an example of dance criticism that truly helps us see." •Laura Shapiro, *The Real Paper*

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The evolution of the roughly twenty-five years of American post-modern dance is expounded upon in Sally Banes' articulate and comprehensive treatment of the period from 1960 to 1985. Pivotal characters in this history, of which there are several, are examined in detail, with many descriptive passages of definitive works and happenings from the era. Post-modern, originally referring only chronologically (and vaguely) to the period following what we now call historical modern dance, actually has several specific and revolutionary veins of philosophy and aesthetics attached to it. Well researched, *Terpsichore in Sneakers* has several photographs, choreographers' scores, charts, and notes (including some previously unpublished), a selected bibliography, and an alphabetical list of works by and about seminal contributors to the movement. Fascinating and enlightening reading not only for dancers, but for those interested in American cultural history and anthropology.

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