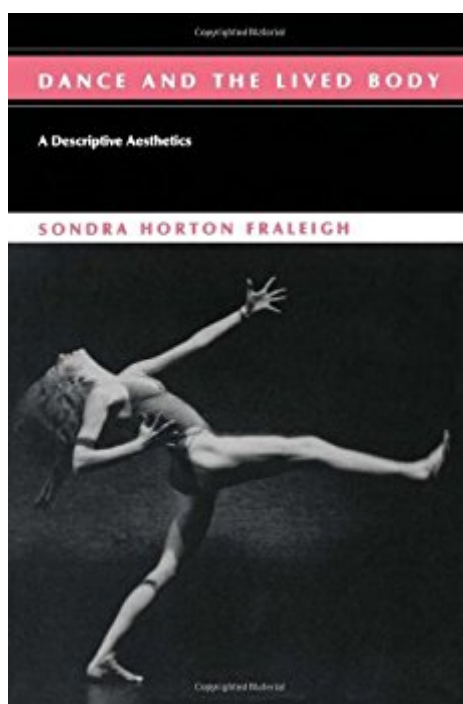


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# Dance And Lived Body



## Synopsis

In her remarkable book, Sondra Horton Fraleigh examines and describes dance through her consciousness of dance as an art, through the experience of dancing, and through the existential and phenomenological literature on the lived body. She describes, with performance photographs, specific imagery in dance masterworks by Doris Humphrey, Anna Sokolow, Viola Farber, Nina Weiner, and Garth Fagan.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If only she had stopped writing after six chapters! The initial premise is good - examine dance informed by existentialism and phenomenology - something that, as a dance artist/educator, I have been yearning for. Writings in Aesthetics about Dance are rare and very few writings from any standpoint that deal with the embodied experience of dancing are rarer still, so the initial premise of the book is very welcome. I was disappointed that she was excluding dance as recreation or ritual and only focusing the theatrical use of dance (and, more specifically, Modern concert dance), but I was willing to accept that limitation. The decision to not use Philosophical "jargon" seems, at first, an attempt to make the book more accessible to undergraduate students and other dance enthusiasts

but it ultimately undermines the authority of the author as someone who has a serious grasp of philosophical dialogue. She provides out of context, partial quotes that don't fully delve into the original meaning of the words. This is reinforced when, discussing Heidegger, she points to his habit of turning nouns into verbs as his "dancing" with words, without acknowledging that the English translation she quotes is, indeed, a translation of the original text. This displays the author's intellectual dishonesty or her rather superficial understanding of philosophy - either way this undermines every other conclusion she makes about the central thrust of various philosophers' writings. The book goes completely off the tracks when she delves into Eastern religion and philosophy with a bunch of newage, muckity-muck poesy that is, unfortunately common to our profession.

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