



Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance

Jan Erkert

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Harnessing the Wind: The Art of Teaching Modern Dance gives you the theoretical knowledge, the practical tips, and the inspiration to prepare the next generation of dancers to meet the demands of contemporary dance.

This book combines information about constructing and presenting a dance class with personal reflections about the art of teaching modern dance and integrating somatic theories, scientific research, and contemporary aesthetic practices. It provides new teachers with a solid theoretical base and incites experienced teachers to reexamine and revitalize their teaching.

The book asks dance instructors to make conscious choices about what, why, and how they teach. Advocating an individualistic approach, it helps teachers understand how their personal dance interests and interpretations influence their teaching styles. Part I, “The Vision,” provides a philosophical perspective. It defines the role of technique and explores the delicate job of nurturing the artist during the quest for technical control. Part II, “Class Preparation,” is where the planning process takes shape. This section shows how to

- set strategies and realistic goals to lay the groundwork for a carefully built progression of movement skills;
- use rituals to facilitate centering;
- safely incorporate conditioning principles into dance training, thus encouraging the development of powerful and resilient dancers;
- understand the interplay between gravity and rhythm, space and energy to shape phrasing; and
- sequence exercises effectively using helpful graphs and planning guides.

Part III, “Class Presentation,” covers essential issues such as pacing, making good corrections, building images to enhance movement learning, and collaborating successfully with musicians. Finally, part IV, “Professional Concerns,” embraces important issues that touch the teaching professional, such as how to objectively analyze and critique a very subjective subject—the body—and how to maintain a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

Learning Aids: Investigations and Reflections

Each chapter is followed by a series of investigations and a reflection designed to challenge and inspire students and teachers. The investigations are concise exercises that explore theories both in and out of the classroom. They cover a range of activities including writing, drawing, chart making, observing, and experiential processing. The reflections provide insight to a dancer's world. Told through the eyes of a dance teacher, these narratives unveil the intangibles that are taught in dance, such as breathing, centering, playfulness, presence, and discipline.

Teacher Resources

The appendixes are full of practical tools, including a sample syllabus, sample grading policies, placement goals for four levels of technique, and assessment and evaluation forms.

Throughout the book, abstract and highly imagistic photographs by dance photographers Erika Dufour and William Frederking provide a powerful visual stimulus that captures mood, motion, and emotion.

This book provides dance students the information and theory necessary to begin the task of teaching. For seasoned teachers, it will inspire new questions and introduce new possibilities. Either way, readers will unleash a world of potential with *Harnessing the Wind*.

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From reader reviews:

Aaron Tyler:

This Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance having very good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Freddy Lamberth:

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James Rodriguez:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The Harnessing the Wind: the Art of Teaching Modern Dance giving you another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Gertrude Knudsen:

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