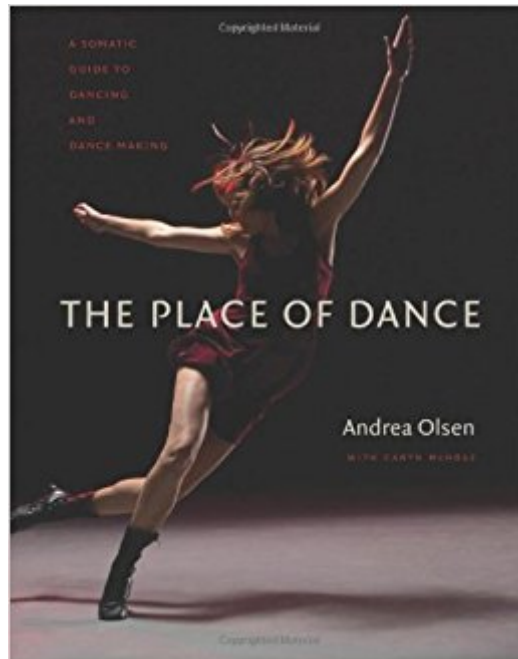


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# The Place Of Dance: A Somatic Guide To Dancing And Dance Making



## Synopsis

The Place of Dance is written for the general reader as well as for dancers. It reminds us that dancing is our nature, available to all as well as refined for the stage. Andrea Olsen is an internationally known choreographer and educator who combines the science of body with creative practice. This workbook integrates experiential anatomy with the process of moving and dancing, with a particular focus on the creative journey involved in choreographing, improvising, and performing for the stage. Each of the chapters, or “days,” introduces a particular theme and features a dance photograph, information on the topic, movement and writing investigations, personal anecdotes, and studio notes from professional artists and educators for further insight. The third in a trilogy of works about the body, including *Bodystories: A Guide to Experiential Anatomy* and *Body and Earth: An Experiential Guide*, *The Place of Dance* will help each reader understand his/her dancing body through somatic work, create a dance, and have a full journal clarifying aesthetic views on his or her practice. It is well suited for anyone interested in engaging embodied intelligence and living more consciously.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This title explores four movement themes: moving, making, collaborating, and living.

Olsen provides useful ideas, structure, and support for those interested in movement

exploration.” Barbara Kundanis, Library Journal

“This latest book offers dancers a way to explore their craft at a deeper level in a 31-day somatic guide. For every day, Olsen presents section prompts that push readers to do, to dance, to speak and to

present— but also to write. She encourages them to explore a different discipline by placing the dance stories of their lives on paper, and suggests a number of angles from which to do so. Olsen’s book could be instructive to women’s memoirists as well. She employs global visual images, stories, and practices. Olsen’s style serves as an example of how to bring creativity to memoir, even though Olsen herself may not term her book a memoir. Lanie Tankard, *Women’s Memoirs*—“Olsen finds her fresh edge with a holistic vision with which to dance, make dances and move through life.” Desirée Dunbar, *Dance International Magazine*—“This book provides contemporary dance makers with a guide for developing personal creative process. Well-chosen black-and-white photos and illustrations support the text.” S.E. Friedler, *Choice*

—“The Place of Dance is a timely reminder of how available, delicious and essential movement is, for all of us. Andrea Olsen prompts us to go ahead, imagine, and do: sink to the floor, lean back and look at the ceiling, and enjoy the unexpected choreographic moment. This book is for our dancing selves, our collaborative selves, our entrepreneurial selves, and it offers strategies and inspiration to find and keep dancing in our lives.” (Bebe Miller, choreographer and artistic director, Bebe Miller Company, and professor of dance, Ohio State University) —“The Place of Dance is a gift to the world of dance and to the world at large. Anyone who has seen or been involved in a dance of any kind must read this book. It opens doors to the lovely visceral mystery of the art form. It will likely become a teacher’s guide as well. Andrea Olsen has created a literate reflective surface from which to envision the body in motion.” (David Dorfman, dance department chair, Connecticut College, and artistic director, David Dorfman Dance) —“The authors are visionaries, weaving environmental, evolutionary, and biological science into dance practice in terms that dancers use in their everyday studio work. Embodiment is key, for it is through embodiment that we learn to feel our environment and value our interrelatedness. The Place of Dance shows how to build a sustainable creative practice that includes the whole dancer through an interconnected modeling of the physical.” (Melinda Buckwalter, author of *Composing While Dancing: An Improviser’s Companion*)

Whoa! This is the type of text that I will read over and over and likely get new inspirations each time.

So much of what is written informs my deep explorations as I work alone or with my students.

Wonderful book. I love it.

A beautiful book.

This book doesn't fit into any small box. It's not just a history although much history is told. It's not a complete "how to", although there are many exercises for the reading. And it's not a full guide to dance interpretation, although it's filled with helpful insights. Rather, it's a beautifully crafted "handbook" about dance, a thoughtful guide, one that will help anybody, whether dancer or not, better understand and appreciate dance. I've been perusing this book, opening to random pages and then reading forward, and have been delighted each time. I do look forward to a retreat when I can read it cover to cover. Disclosure: Some of the photographs in the book are mine. However, I've had no role in content or organization of the book.

I love this book! It is a work of art itself. Andrea Olsen really crafted with book. The essays, exercises, sidebars, and images are thoughtful and extensive. She brings in many other artists' voices and perspectives throughout the book. If you are looking for a book about the impact of somatics and somatic thinking on all aspects of dance - training, composing, choreographing, etc. - this is your resource! The book can offer seasoned contemporary teachers, working at the college level, ideas for new explorations with your undergraduates and graduate level students.

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