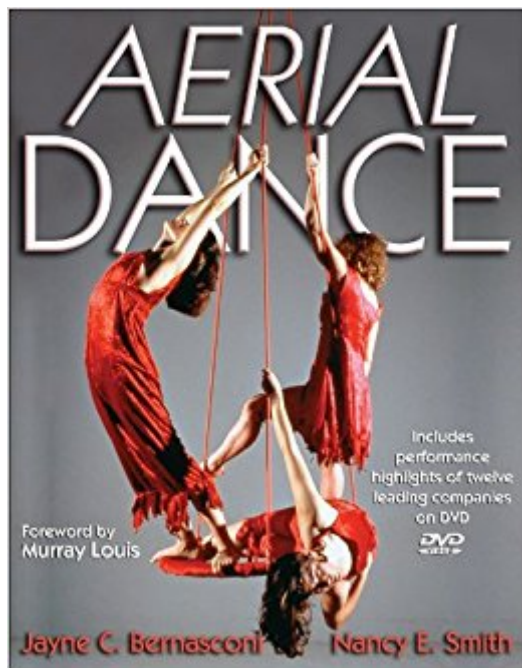


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# Aerial Dance



## Synopsis

Aerial Dance is the first book to showcase this newest dance genre. The book traces the historical roots of this latest art form, which is rapidly gaining in popularity. It also defines its place in the lineage of modern dance and addresses aesthetics, philosophical approaches to teaching, and safety issues. Aerial Dance will be of great interest to all those associated with or attracted to this emerging art form. Whether a novice or professional, a practitioner or educator, they will learn from those who helped shape aerial dance into what it is today. Through this book and DVD package, readers will gain insight from essays written by leading choreographers in the field; gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for aerial dance choreography through "Look Up!" features that provide cross-references to video performance clips on the DVD; and view high-quality photographs that illustrate the origins of aerial dance. Part I details the evolution of aerial dance and its place in a postmodern world. It delves into the aesthetics of aerial dance and the differences between this genre and circus-based aerial arts. Part II presents a variety of essays from many of the top artists in the field who provide insight into their own approaches to aerial dance. The book also presents a variety of teaching applications, including ideas for working with special populations and related art forms. Part III is all about safety, including injury prevention, rigging, other safety-related issues. This part helps readers understand anatomical and physiological issues regarding safety. Note that Aerial Dance is not meant as an instruction book in choreographing or executing aerial dance moves. No book can ensure safe rigging or keep a dancer from falling. Those who are interested in learning and practicing aerial dance must first find a skilled and experienced teacher. The appendix includes contact information on aerial dancers, teachers, festivals, and aerial dance equipment. Readers will find great insight and direction from seasoned experts in this innovative dance form. Aerial Dance captures the passion of the genre and helps readers appreciate the creative possibilities it offers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jayne Bernasconi, MA, is an adjunct professor of dance at Towson University and aerial dance instructor at Gerstung in Baltimore. A professional dancer, choreographer, and educator for 25 years, she is the founder and artistic director of Air Dance Bernasconi, a nonprofit aerial dance company in Baltimore since 2000. Since that time, her dance company has created more than 25 full-scale aerial dances. Ms. Bernasconi teaches all levels of modern dance, composition, history, and fundamentals of dance courses at Towson University, and she has designed and taught aerial dance classes, including aerial yoga and a mixed-ability aerial dance, to more than 800 students in the Baltimore and Washington, DC, area. In addition to founding her own dance company, she founded and was artistic director for Forces of Ability (a mixed-ability dance company) and Artsability (for children). She has received several grants and fellowships to further her choreographic endeavors. When she's not busy with her dance company or teaching, she enjoys competing in triathlons, playing the piano, and hanging out with her family (without, if possible, embarrassing her two teenage daughters).

Nancy E. Smith founded Frequent Flyers Productions in Boulder, Colorado, in 1988 and serves as the artistic director. Ms. Smith is an alumna of the Colorado College and studied in the master's program in dance at UCLA before moving to Seattle to work with Joan Skinner's dance company. Since 1985, she has taught low-flying trapeze and releasing technique around the United States. Her work with Frequent Flyers Productions has been seen in the Bahamas, Boston, Utah, New Orleans, and Montreal and throughout Colorado. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the first Cutting Edge Award from the Colorado Dance Alliance, the Boulder County Pacesetters Award for Arts and Entertainment, Women Who Light the Community Award from the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, a Neodata Endowment Fellowship in Dance, and the Arts Innovation Award from the Colorado Federation of the Arts. Frequent Flyers Productions has gained international recognition as a pioneer in the field of aerial dance. The company launched the highly acclaimed Aerial Dance Festival in 1999. This annual offering has brought prominence to the company for advancing the art form of aerial dance. Ms. Smith enjoys spending time with her family, reading, knitting, and traveling.

I found this to be a useful intro to aerial dance, but was hoping for more from the DVD and book. This reads a more as a historical review than I had hoped for. It does have a few useful videos in the DVD that help illustrate how people have implemented aerial dance over the years, which was what I sought after. However, these videos are only moderately useful to me (as a newcomer) in understanding the range of possibilities aerial dance has.

A truly interesting look at some of the early history of Aerial dance in its various forms. Most of the dance groups and choreographers highlighted are from the 70's-80's. This is truly a history of the earlier forms of aerial dance. Considering how far the popularity of aerial performing has come with the mass performances of groups like Cirque Du Soleil, this book might seem a bit "outdated" if you were looking for information on the art form as it is today.

I loved seeing the DVD! That was the jewel of this book. The book is a good perspective on the niche category of Aerial Dance. It does a good job of explaining the difference between Aerial Dance and other forms of Aerial performance. I felt like I had a good handle on the art after reading this and watching the accompanying DVD. It is inspirational, informative and helpful- It has a nice list at the back of places to learn Aerial Dance and to buy equipment. Some of the listings were obsolete, I found. I was really searching for a book that had more practical stuff like how to execute certain moves and this is not the book for that. However, for anyone who is curious about this art form this is a great read.

Good introduction to aerial dance. Like the historical references.

Good book pretty informative

I was hoping for more technique instruction but I didn't fully read the description. Hopefully the author will release a dvd on techniques

this was a gift and was given good reviews by the recipient

The aerial dance performances of twelve leading companies on DVD accompany something truly unique: the first book to profile this new dance genre. From its historical roots to how to become an

aerial dancer and how to judge aerial performances differently, AERIAL DANCE offers insights and direction from experts who developed and work in this genre. Any library strong in modern dance in general needs this.

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