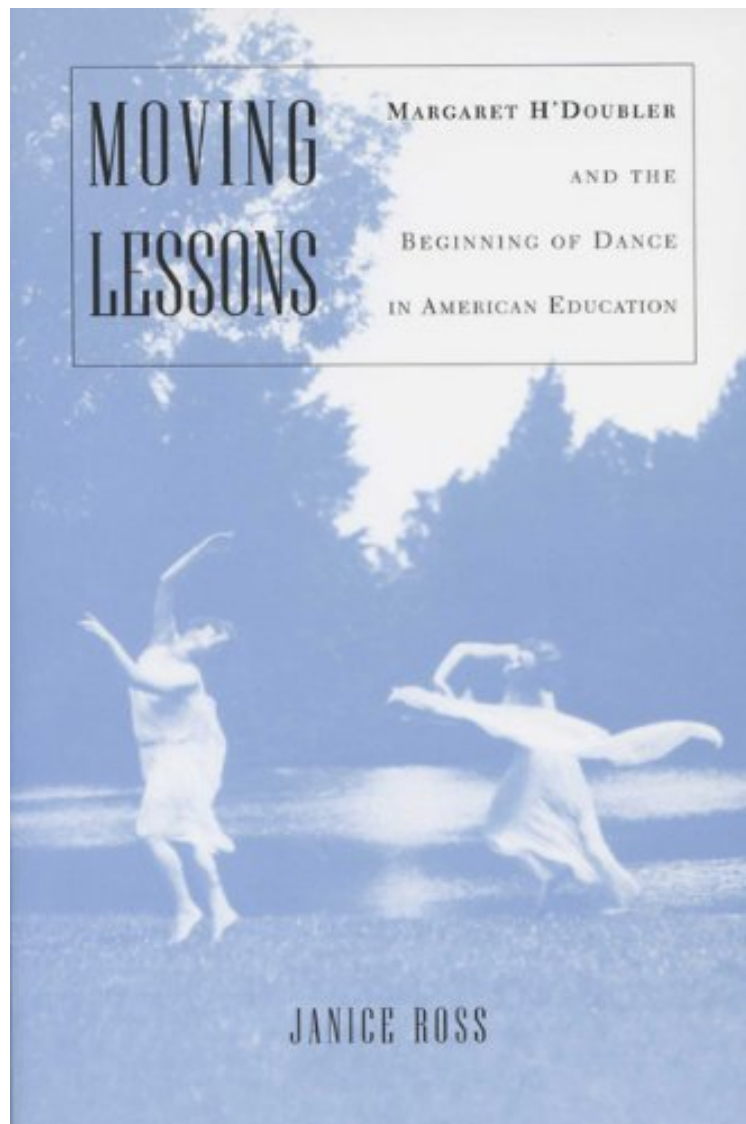


(Download free ebook) Moving Lessons: Margaret H'Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education

## Moving Lessons: Margaret H'Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education

Janice Ross

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**Janice Ross : Moving Lessons: Margaret H'Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moving Lessons: Margaret H'Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Book on Origins of Dance in American UniversitiesBy Dean

Powers This is an excellent book that provides an illuminating history into the origins of dance in education, specifically in American Universities during the early 20th century. Special attention is paid to the influence of Margaret H'Doubler (1889-1982) who in addition to being a dance education pioneer, was a trained biologist who introduced her dance students to anatomical observation using a model skeleton prior to commencing their dance studies. This is just one of many examples of the historical detail found throughout the text, which beyond being a scholarly work, offers many insightful views of the convergence of dance history, feminism, and the role of women in higher education. I recommend this book to those interested in a superbly researched history of a dance education as well as those intrigued by the vision and struggles of pioneering women in American education such as H'Doubler.

Moving Lessons is an insightful and sophisticated look at the origins and influence of dance in American universities, focusing on Margaret H'Doubler, who established the first university courses and the first degree program in dance (at the University of Wisconsin). Dance educator and historian Janice Ross shows that H'Doubler (1889-1982) was both emblematic of her time and an innovator who made deep imprints in American culture. An authentic "New Woman," H'Doubler emerged from a sheltered female Victorian world to take action in the public sphere. She changed the way Americans thought, not just about female physicality but also about higher education for women. Ross brings together many discourses from dance history, pedagogical theory, women's history, feminist theory, American history, and the history of the body in intelligent, exciting, and illuminating ways and adds a new chapter to each of them. She shows how H'Doubler, like Isadora Duncan and other modern dancers, helped to raise dance in the eyes of the middle class from its despised status as lower-class entertainment and "dangerous" social interaction to a serious enterprise. Taking a nuanced critical approach to the history of women's bodies and their representations, *Moving Lessons* fills a very large gap in the history of dance education.

From Library Journal She never performed, choreographed, or even studied dance, but Margaret H'Doubler (1889-1982) nonetheless influenced modern dance in America through her teaching and writing. As a physical education teacher at the University of Wisconsin at Madison on a leave of absence in New York to study philosophy and aesthetics at Columbia University, she was asked to bring back "some dance worthy of a college woman's time." She would go on to develop curriculum and teaching methods that would result in the first university-level courses in dance and, eventually, the first dance degree program. Influenced as much by John Dewey's educational theories as by the various dancers and dance teachers she observed, H'Doubler, according to Anna Halprin, founder of the San Francisco Dancer's workshop and the Tamalpa institute, "conceptualized dance from the perspectives of science, philosophy, and aesthetics." Her impact on the teaching of dance is still felt today. This detailed portrait of a singular woman will be of interest to dance, education, and women's studies collections. DCarolyn M. Mulac, Chicago P.L. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Janice Ross timely, reader-friendly compilation of dance, history, biography, educational philosophy and women's studies reminds us of the power and sense of developing both an intellectual and physical body, particularly as we turn a new century and direct our society toward a more sedentary technological lifestyle. Maureen Janson, Capital Times (77 Square, Aug. 23, 2008)