



# Directing the Dance Legacy of Doris Humphrey: The Creative Impulse of Reconstruction (Studies in Dance History)

*Lesley Main*

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*Directing the Dance Legacy of Doris Humphrey* looks inside four of Doris Humphrey's major choreographic works—*Water Study* (1928), *The Shakers* (1931), *With My Red Fires* (1936), and *Passacaglia* (1938)—with an eye to how directorial strategies applied in recent contemporized stagings in the United States and Europe could work across the modern and contemporary dance genre. Author Lesley Main, a seasoned practitioner of Doris Humphrey choreography, stresses to the reader the need to balance respect for classical works from the modern dance repertory with the necessity for fresh directorial strategies, to balance between traditional practices and a creative role for the reconstructor.

Drawing upon her own dance experience, Main's book addresses an area of dance research and practice that is becoming increasingly pertinent as the dancer-choreographers of the 20th century modern and contemporary dance are no longer alive to attend to the re-stagings of the body of their works. Insightful and thought-provoking, *Directing the Dance Legacy of Doris Humphrey* calls for the creation of new forms of directorial practice in dance beyond reconstruction. The radical new practices it proposes to replace the old are sure to spark debate and fresh thinking across the dance field.

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