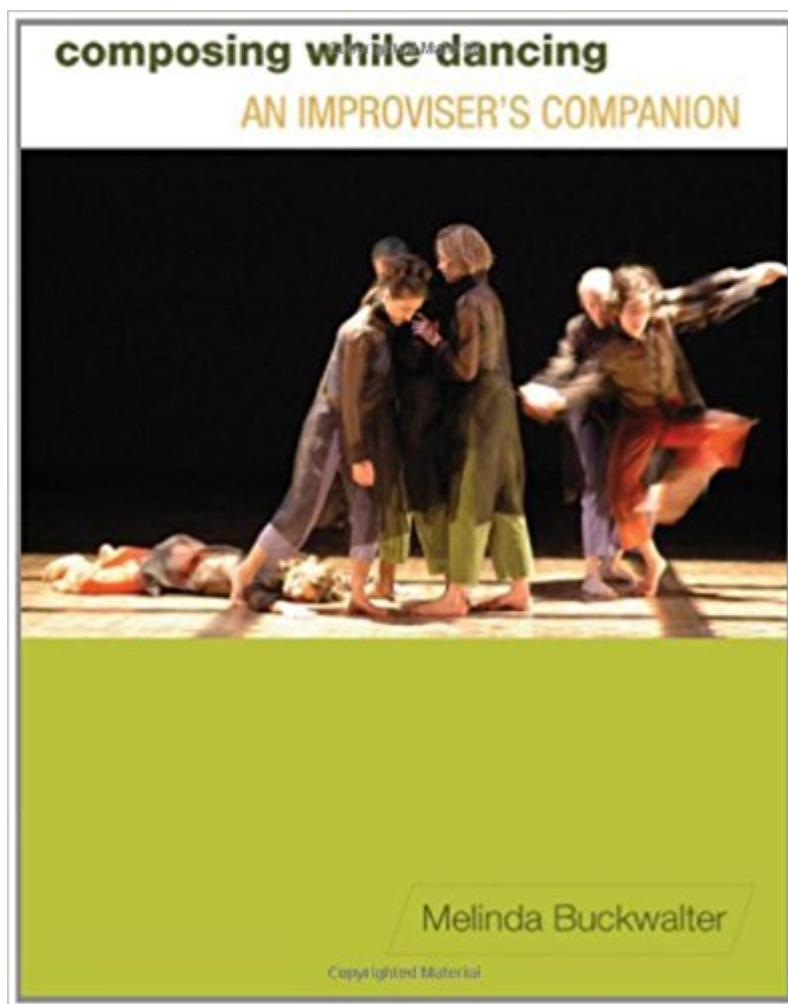


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# Composing While Dancing: An Improviser's Companion



## Synopsis

Composing while Dancing: An Improviser's Companion examines the world of improvisational dance and the varied approaches to this art form. By introducing the improvisational strategies of twenty-six top contemporary artists of movement improvisation, Melinda Buckwalter offers a practical primer to the dance form. Each chapter focuses on an important aspect of improvisation including spatial relations, the eyes, and the dancing image. Included are sample practices from the artists profiled, exercises for further research, and a glossary of terms.

Buckwalter gathers history, methods, interviews, and biographies in one book to showcase the many facets of improvisational dance and create an invaluable reference for dancers and dance educators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Composing while Dancing is a treasure trove of dance improvisation information.” • Paul Langland, New York University “A welcome addition to the sparse literature of movement improvisation. Through years of her own study, Buckwalter has gathered a cornucopia of improvisational practices from more than two dozen of the most intriguing (and underdocumented) movement artists working today. She then invites you, through the organization of the chapters and through her own energy and interest, to join the dance.” • Kent De Spain, author of *Method to the Madness: Movement Improvisation in the Words of Its Practitioners* “An insightful, much-needed resource for those interested in dance improvisation. Budding young artists in particular will value the epilogue on developing their

own practice.Ã¢â€•Ã¢â€•â€•J. H. Roberts, CHOICE

Melinda Buckwalter is coeditor of *Contact Quarterly*, a dance and improvisation journal. She lives in Massachusetts.

Reader Book Reviews: Composing While Dancing: An Improviser's Companion

Here's a video about the book: [...]"Ah. Can one dance without composing? Just to say I read your romp through the jungle of improvisation and really admire of bookness of it. How you composed while writing... It is a companionable book, returning as it does to reopen topics, murmur personal asides, make friendly suggestions. If it could make tea, or laugh out loud, the companionship could blossom into friendship quickly. I felt treated with care while reading it. I very liked the amazing index and the way the glossary was handled. I haven't read the notes yet, but no doubt will keep it near for browsing and reference so eventually will drink in every word and space you composed. Well done." -Steve Paxton, featured artist

"I just got the book in the mail and have been reading it non-stop... I can't wait to try some of things out in my own dancing and with my students. What a huge undertaking and it came out just beautifully, I am so excited to delve in!" -Joanna Rotkin, dance faculty, University of Colorado, Boulder

"I have your book! I have started reading it! I am so thrilled for you and also happy for me that I have a provocative and trustworthy text to read that aligns with my own experiences thinking while moving (which happens a lot)." -Megan Nicely, dance faculty, University of San Francisco

"I am thick in your book. I wake up excited to read it. I often find that all I want to do is get some info and inspiration from it and then go into the world and dance with some new perspective in mind and let my body do the "walking" and talking and then go back home and read it some more over a cup of tea." -Caitlin Hellerer, dancer

"Got my copy ~ so impressive! I'm in awe of what you've done ~ built a constellation of improvisers and I'm proud to be included. What catches me is that independent of one another we often arrive at similar places ~ almost like some natural evolutionary process." -Barbara Dilley, featured artist

While preparing for my first solo improvisation performance I found this book the most helpful. It was the only book that helped me understand that I needed to find my way and provided a lot of ideas and examples of experienced dance artists. Thank you!

Great item. Received as promised.

As a dance improviser this is an amazing find. So many ideas and so much history all rolled into one book. I'm extremely excited to put this book into action-- exploring the various ideas of great improvisers outlined by the author. [May not be best book to start with if you don't have much dance improvisation experience as it only summarizes the ideas.]

Composing While Dancing arrived in excellent condition. Thank you so much!

This book is very helpful for teaching college students to improvise. It helps them to get over their initial fear.

I'm excited about reading up on all the choreographers listed in this book. I am learning so much on how to improvise dance.

A book with a different approach from various dancers perspective. It is not a list of a bunch of movement ideas ( although there are several great ones). There are many inspirations for new improvisations.

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