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Flamenco!



Synopsis

The word "flamenco" has an international resonance, yet few people know much about flamenco itself - for most it means a colourful Spanish dance but behind the superficial image lies a significant history and evolution. This study explores this history from its earliest beginnings in songs, to its present sophistication in the combination of leading singers and dancers. The religious and ethnic influences on flamenco are analyzed as well as its place in literature, the themes that appear in its songs, its grounding in Andalusia and the 20th-century revival of its basic meaning under the aegis of the poet Lorca and other Spanish notables.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Captures the essence of the artform. . . . The images are exquisite. -- Sara Jarrett, *Dance Spirit*, October 2000
Flamenco is passionate, romantic, and dramatic, and care has been taken to convey these qualities through the book's design. -- Joan Stahl, *Library Journal*, 15 November 2000
Seriously gorgeous . . . it's the astonishingly immediate and direct photos that make this book such a treat. -- *Time Out London*, 13 December 2000

Professor of Spanish at the University of Wales, Gwynne Edwards has written widely on Spanish theater and film, as well as translating most of Lorca's plays into English. Ken Haas

Nice intro to flamenco with a few interesting photos.

I am both a flamenco dancer and photographer. I am lukewarm about this book. The layout was poor--the text was too wordy and the pictures seemed more like calendar art than fine art photographs. I owned this book for a month before selling it to a local book store. My advice is keep searching there must be better books out there.

I am new to flamenco. I have read Emma Martinez's book "Flamenco" which flooded me with information! Great book! This book is a good source too and gave me some information that Martinez's lacks. One example, that Hindu dancers were entertaining in Spanish courts around 500 B.C.! The author highlights the similarities of flamenco, bullfighting, and the Mass as the "Holy Trinity" of Spanish culture with good points. And another parallel with Greek tragedy. The reading is interesting and the photographs are great! One critic is disappointed that Juan Serrano is not mentioned but the book is not solely based on flamenco guitar and hence many great players are not mentioned. But it does cover a lot of ground regarding flamenco dance, song, guitar, history and tradition. I would recommend it. The only reason why I don't give it a 5 star rating is because I am biased and wanted to know a lot more about the guitar players too! But there are plenty of other sources for that.

This coffee-table sized, lavishly illustrated book presents a gorgeous panorama of flamenco in Spain, from its origins with the Gypsies of Andalusia to the modern Nuevo Flamenco movement. The text is thorough, comprehensive, and supremely interesting. Edwards' style flows nicely among the many photographs, never failing to follow this engaging detail or that, and always presenting the art of Flamenco in its truest light: from artists to its impact upon Spanish culture. Words cannot adequately express the beauty of Haas's photographs; the man deserves at least an extra hundred pages. Dancers whirl in blurs of light and fabric; ancient cantadores sing with all the passion of their soul; a pair of Gypsies laugh and play guitar in the light of a barrel-fire. Haas effectively - and gorgeously - captures the very heart of Flamenco in his photos. The book is further enhanced by a number of smaller, black-and-white, historic photos and illustrations, bringing the masters of the past to life. Enough good things cannot be said about this book - order a copy today!

I'm thrilled to find a book published so recently (2000) that does such a tremendous job of covering the topic both factually and aesthetically. Reviewer Jennifer Guerra has said it all, so I'll not repeat. For you art lovers, just take a look at the first few photographs. The rest do not disappoint. For you who want to learn more about flamenco, start at the beginning with the most comprehensive

discussion of the origin of the word "flamenco" that I've ever seen. The rest is as satisfying. All that's missing is the guitar in your own hands, the song in your own throat, the dance shoes on your own feet. Not ready to do that? Enjoy this book instead!

The Haas/Edwards Flamenco is worth more than its price for the photographs alone. They are lush, seductive, and captivating, even if one has no particular interest in flamenco as an art. Miraculously, the prose comes very close to living up to the photographs it accompanies. It's a careful, accurate account of the development of flamenco. If your flamenco shelf has room for only two books, they should be Donn Pohren's Art of Flamenco, for the encyclopedia and the "insider's" view, and this one for the overall story and the pictures that capture the art so well.

I just cannot believe that the Maestro Juan Serrano from Spain hailed as "The King of Flamenco Guitar" was nowhere to be found in this book. Whoever did the research really missed out. I have had the pleasure of seeing Juan Serrano perform on two continents. He is a master who has played Carnegie Hall, Washington, D.C. and received numerous accolades from many countries, including Spain. Maestro Serrano has even brought Flamenco guitar and teaching to the university level in the U.S.A. and writes teaching books through MelBay, Inc. About the best I can say about this book is that they had a good idea with some nice photos, but did an incomplete job. I am a true fan of many guitarists including Paco de Lucia and Paco Pena, but this omission is almost unbelievable.

If you like latin dance and Spanish culture, you will adore Flamenco! The photos and text blend together to provide a sensitive and in-depth look at this centuries-old art form. A marvelous book on the topic, professionally done in every way. I am delighted with it.

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