

alvin ailey revelations analysis

Alvin Ailey Revelations: A Deep Dive Analysis

Introduction:

Are you captivated by the raw emotion and breathtaking artistry of Alvin Ailey's Revelations? This iconic masterpiece transcends mere dance; it's a visceral journey through the African American experience, steeped in spiritual fervor and cultural richness. This comprehensive analysis delves into the heart of Revelations, exploring its historical context, choreographic genius, musical influences, and lasting impact on the world of dance and beyond. We'll unpack the symbolism, dissect individual sections, and ultimately understand why Revelations continues to resonate with audiences globally, decades after its creation. Prepare to be moved – and to gain a deeper appreciation for this unparalleled work of art.

I. Historical Context: The Seeds of Revelations

Alvin Ailey created Revelations in 1960, a pivotal moment in American history. The Civil Rights Movement was gaining momentum, and African American artists were reclaiming their narratives and celebrating their heritage. Ailey, deeply rooted in his Texas upbringing and influenced by the Black church, channeled these experiences into a dance that became a powerful testament to resilience, faith, and cultural identity. The piece wasn't just a dance; it was a statement, a cultural artifact reflecting the anxieties and triumphs of a community striving for equality and recognition. Understanding this historical backdrop is crucial to grasping the full impact of Revelations. The era's social and political climate infused the work with a sense of urgency and authenticity that continues to resonate today.

II. Choreographic Brilliance: Structure and Symbolism

Revelations is not merely a series of movements; it's a meticulously crafted narrative. The three sections – "Pilgrim of Sorrow," "Wade in the Water," and "Movements" – each tell a distinct story, flowing seamlessly into the next. Ailey masterfully employs a range of dance styles, incorporating elements of African dance, gospel movements, and modern techniques. The use of specific gestures, formations, and rhythms isn't arbitrary; it's rich with symbolism. For instance, the flowing lines and lifting movements might represent hope and aspiration, while the more grounded, earthier movements could signify the struggles and hardships faced. Analyzing these subtle yet powerful details unlocks a deeper understanding of Ailey's artistic vision. The careful choreography isn't just visually stunning; it's a carefully constructed language that speaks directly to the soul.

III. Musical Landscape: The Power of Gospel and Spirituals

The music of *Revelations* is as integral to its emotional power as the choreography. Ailey collaborated with various composers, drawing heavily on traditional African American spirituals and gospel music. These songs, often born from the experiences of slavery and oppression, carry a profound weight of history and emotion. The soulful melodies and powerful rhythms create an atmosphere of both sorrow and joy, mirroring the complexities of the African American experience. The interplay between the music and dance creates a synergistic effect, amplifying the emotional impact and strengthening the overall narrative. The specific selection of spirituals further enhances the thematic resonance of each section, carefully chosen to complement the choreography and enhance the emotional arc.

IV. Lasting Legacy: *Revelations*' Enduring Influence

Revelations isn't just a historical artifact; it remains a living, breathing work of art. Its enduring popularity speaks to its universal themes of faith, hope, and perseverance. The piece has inspired countless dancers, choreographers, and artists, becoming a touchstone for exploring themes of identity, spirituality, and cultural heritage. It's regularly performed worldwide, continuing to move and inspire audiences across generations. Its impact extends far beyond the realm of dance, becoming a cultural symbol of resilience and the power of art to transcend boundaries. The piece's ongoing relevance highlights its timeless message and its ability to connect with audiences on a deeply personal level.

V. A Deeper Look at Individual Sections:

Let's break down each section of *Revelations* in more detail:

Pilgrim of Sorrow: This section explores themes of suffering and hardship, using somber choreography and music to depict the struggles of the African American community. The slow, deliberate movements convey a sense of weight and weariness.

Wade in the Water: This section represents hope and faith, drawing from the spiritual "Wade in the Water," which symbolizes the escape from slavery and the journey towards freedom. The choreography becomes lighter, featuring more fluid and uplifting movements.

Movements: This final section is a celebration of joy and resilience. The music is more upbeat, and the choreography incorporates elements of jubilation and communal celebration. It's a powerful statement of triumph and enduring faith.

Sample Analysis Outline:

Name: Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*: A Critical Examination

Outline:

Introduction: Briefly introducing Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*, highlighting the piece's significance and the analysis's scope.

Chapter 1: Historical Context: Examining the socio-political climate of 1960s America and its influence on the creation of *Revelations*.

Chapter 2: Choreographic Analysis: A detailed exploration of the choreography, including movement styles, symbolism, and narrative structure within each section ("Pilgrim of Sorrow," "Wade in the Water," "Movements").

Chapter 3: Musical Influence: Analyzing the role of gospel and spirituals in conveying emotion and reinforcing the thematic elements.

Chapter 4: Cultural Impact: Discussing the lasting legacy of *Revelations* and its influence on dance, culture, and society.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and emphasizing the enduring power and relevance of *Revelations*.

(Detailed explanation of each point in the outline would follow, expanding on the points already discussed in the main blog post. This would involve in-depth analysis of specific choreographic sequences, musical selections, and historical events relevant to the piece. Each chapter would build upon the previous one, offering a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of Alvin Ailey's masterpiece.)

FAQs:

1. What is the historical significance of *Revelations*? It reflects the African American experience during the Civil Rights Movement, serving as a powerful artistic statement.
1. What are the main themes explored in *Revelations*? Faith, hope, resilience, struggle, and the journey towards freedom are central themes.
1. What dance styles are incorporated into *Revelations*? African dance, modern dance, and gospel movements are blended seamlessly.
1. What is the role of music in *Revelations*? Gospel and spirituals create a powerful emotional

atmosphere and enhance the narrative.

1. How does the choreography in each section differ? Each section uses distinct movements to reflect the thematic shifts throughout the work.
1. What makes **Revelations** so enduringly popular? Its universal themes of faith, hope, and resilience resonate across cultures and generations.
1. Who are some key figures involved in the creation of **Revelations**? Alvin Ailey himself, along with the composers and dancers who brought the work to life.
1. Where can I see **Revelations** performed? The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater tours extensively, and many dance companies perform the work.
1. How can I further explore the work of Alvin Ailey? Explore his other choreographies, biographies, and documentaries.

Related Articles:

1. The Evolution of Alvin Ailey's Choreography: Traces the stylistic changes and thematic development in Ailey's work over his career.
1. The Spirituals in Alvin Ailey's **Revelations**: A deep dive into the musical choices and their significance.

1. Alvin Ailey's Influence on Modern Dance: Explores Ailey's contributions to the evolution of modern dance techniques.

1. The Symbolism of Movement in Revelations: A detailed analysis of the symbolic gestures and formations within the choreography.

1. The Legacy of Alvin Ailey: A Celebration of His Life and Work: A biographical overview of Ailey's life and career.

1. Comparing Revelations to Other Ailey Masterpieces: A comparative study of Revelations with other famous works by Ailey.

1. The Costumes and Set Design of Revelations: An examination of the visual elements and their contribution to the overall impact.

1. Revelations and the Black Church: The relationship between the piece's spiritual themes and the cultural context of the Black church.

1. Teaching Revelations: Methods and Interpretations: A discussion of pedagogical approaches for teaching this iconic work.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *Dancing Revelations* Thomas DeFrantz, 2006 He also addresses concerns about how dance performance is documented, including issues around

spectatorship and the display of sexuality, the relationship of Ailey's dances to civil rights activism, and the establishment and maintenance of a successful, large-scale Black Arts institution.--Jacket.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Revelations Alvin Ailey, A. Peter Bailey, 1995 World-class choreographer Alvin Ailey was a pioneer in the world of dance. Now, the intensely private man opens up to tell his own story in his own words. It is a revelation that will astound even those who think they knew Alvin Ailey--the man who forever changed the face and the rhythm of the world of dance. photographs.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: America Dancing Megan Pugh, 2015-01-01 The history of American dance reflects the nation's tangled culture. Dancers from wildly different backgrounds watched, imitated, and stole from one another. Audiences everywhere embraced the result as deeply American. Chronicling dance from the minstrel stage to the music video, Megan Pugh shows how freedom--that nebulous, contested American ideal--emerged as a genre-defining aesthetic. Ballerinas mingled with slumming thrill-seekers, and hoedowns showed up on elite opera-house stages. Steps invented by slaves captivated the British royalty and the Parisian avant-garde. Dances were better boundary crossers than their dancers, however, and the racism and class conflicts that haunt everyday life shadow American dance as well. Center stage in America Dancing is a cast of performers who slide, glide, stomp, and swing their way through history. At the nadir of U.S. race relations, cakewalkers embraced the rhythms of black America. On the heels of the Harlem Renaissance, Bill Robinson tap-danced to stardom. At the height of the Great Depression, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers unified highbrow and popular art. In the midst of 1940s patriotism, Agnes de Mille brought jazz and square dance to ballet, then took it all to Broadway. In the decades to come, the choreographer Paul Taylor turned pedestrian movements into modern masterpieces, and Michael Jackson moonwalked his way to otherworldly stardom. These artists both celebrated and criticized the country, all while inspiring others to get moving. For it is partly by pretending to be other people, Pugh argues, that Americans discover themselves ... America Dancing demonstrates the centrality of dance in American art, life, and identity, taking us to watershed moments when the nation worked out a sense of itself through public movement--Publisher's description.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: How To Do Things with Dance Rebekah J. Kowal, 2010-10-01 Winner of the CORD Outstanding Publication Award (2012) In postwar America, any assertion of difference from the mainstream anticommunist culture carried professional and personal risks. For this reason, modern dance artists left much of what they thought unsaid. Instead they expressed themselves in movement. How To Do Things with Dance positions modern dance as a vital critical discourse, and suggests that dances of the late 1940s and the 1950s can be seen as compelling agents of social change. Concentrating on choreographers whose artistic work conceived dance in terms of action, Rebekah J. Kowal shows how specific choreographic projects demonstrated increasing awareness of the stage as a penetrable space, one on which socially suspect or marginalized modes of being could be performed with relative impunity and exerted in the real world. Artists covered include Martha Graham, José Limón, Anna Sokolow, Katherine Dunham, Pearl Primus, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Donald McKayle, Talley Beatty, and Anna Halprin. Ebook Edition Note: All images have been redacted.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Originals Cat Patrick, 2013-05-07 A riveting new story from Cat Patrick, author of *Forgotten and Revived*. 17-year-olds Lizzie, Ella, and Betsey Best grew up as identical triplets... until they discovered a shocking family secret. They're actually closer than sisters, they're clones. Hiding from a government agency that would expose them, the Best family appears to consist of a single mother with one daughter named Elizabeth. Lizzie, Ella, and Betsey take turns going to school, attending social engagements, and a group mindset has always been a de facto part of life... Then Lizzie meets Sean Kelly, a guy who seems to see into her very soul. As their relationship develops, Lizzie realizes that she's not a carbon copy of her sisters; she's an individual with unique dreams and desires, and digging deeper into her background, Lizzie begins to dismantle the delicate balance of an unusual family that only science could have created.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope Micki Grant, 1972 This

dynamic mixture of rock, calypso and ballads features a dozen singer-dancers in 20 numbers. In revue-style format, *Don't Bother Me ...* explores the African American experience through vibrant song and dance.--Publisher

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Amazing Grace Jonathan Kozol, 2012-06-26 *Amazing Grace* is Jonathan Kozol's classic book on life and death in the South Bronx—the poorest urban neighborhood of the United States. He brings us into overcrowded schools, dysfunctional hospitals, and rat-infested homes where families have been ravaged by depression and anxiety, drug-related violence, and the spread of AIDS. But he also introduces us to devoted and unselfish teachers, dedicated ministers, and—at the heart and center of the book—courageous and delightful children. The children we come to meet through the friendships they have formed with Jonathan defy the stereotypes of urban youth too frequently presented by the media. Tender, generous, and often religiously devout, they speak with eloquence and honesty about the poverty and racial isolation that have wounded but not hardened them. Amidst all of the despair, it is the very young whose luminous capacity for love and transcendent sense of faith in human decency give reason for hope.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Art of Grace: On Moving Well Through Life Sarah L. Kaufman, 2015-11-02 Sarah Kaufman offers an old-fashioned cure for a modern-day ailment. The remedy for our culture of coarseness is grace...This is an elegant, compelling, and, yes, graceful book. —Daniel H. Pink, author of *Drive* In this joyful exploration of grace's many forms, Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Sarah L. Kaufman celebrates a too-often-forgotten philosophy of living that promotes human connection and fulfillment. Drawing on the arts, sports, the humanities, and everyday life—as well as the latest findings in neuroscience and health research—Kaufman illuminates how our bodies and our brains are designed for grace. She promotes a holistic appreciation and practice of grace, as the joining of body, mind, and spirit, and as a way to nurture ourselves and others.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Francis Bacon Mark Stevens, Annalyn Swan, 2021-03-23 THE TIMES ART BOOK OF THE YEAR Named one of The Irish Times' Books of the Year for 2021 A compelling and comprehensive look at the life and art of Francis Bacon, one of the iconic painters of the twentieth century—from the Pulitzer Prize-winning authors of *de Kooning: An American Master*. This intimate study of the singularly private, darkly funny, eruptive man and his extraordinary art “is bejeweled with sensuous detail ... the iconoclastic charm of the artist keeps the pages turning” (The Washington Post). “A definitive life of Francis Bacon ... Stevens and Swan are vivid scene setters ... Francis Bacon does justice to the contradictions of both the man and the art.” —The Boston Globe Francis Bacon created an indelible image of mankind in modern times, and played an outsized role in both twentieth century art and life—from his public emergence with his legendary *Triptych* 1944 (its images so unrelievedly awful that people fled the gallery), to his death in Madrid in 1992. Bacon was a witty free spirit and unabashed homosexual at a time when many others remained closeted, and his exploits were as unforgettable as his images. He moved among the worlds of London's Soho and East End, the literary salons of London and Paris, and the homosexual life of Tangier. Through hundreds of interviews, and extensive new research, the authors probe Bacon's childhood in Ireland (he earned his father's lasting disdain because his asthma prevented him from hunting); his increasingly open homosexuality; his early design career—never before explored in detail; the formation of his vision; his early failure as an artist; his uneasy relationship with American abstract art; and his improbable late emergence onto the international stage as one of the great visionaries of the twentieth century. In all, *Francis Bacon: Revelations* gives us a more complete and nuanced--and more international--portrait than ever before of this singularly private, darkly funny, eruptive man and his equally eruptive, extraordinary art. Bacon was not just an influential artist, he helped remake the twentieth-century figure.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Hughie Eugene O'Neill, 1982-10 THE STORY: Originally produced on Broadway, revived to sellout houses in 1996 starring Al Pacino, HUGHIE was one of O'Neill's last works. It was originally intended as part of a series of short plays, but it became the lone survivor when O'Neill de

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *Modern Dance, Negro Dance* Susan Manning, 2004 Two traditionally divided strains of American dance, Modern Dance and Negro Dance, are linked through photographs, reviews, film, and oral history, resulting in a unique view of the history of American dance.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Modern Bodies Julia L. Foulkes, 2003-11-03 In 1930, dancer and choreographer Martha Graham proclaimed the arrival of dance as an art of and from America. Dancers such as Doris Humphrey, Ted Shawn, Katherine Dunham, and Helen Tamiris joined Graham in creating a new form of dance, and, like other modernists, they experimented with and argued over their aesthetic innovations, to which they assigned great meaning. Their innovations, however, went beyond aesthetics. While modern dancers devised new ways of moving bodies in accordance with many modernist principles, their artistry was indelibly shaped by their place in society. Modern dance was distinct from other artistic genres in terms of the people it attracted: white women (many of whom were Jewish), gay men, and African American men and women. Women held leading roles in the development of modern dance on stage and off; gay men recast the effeminacy often associated with dance into a hardened, heroic, American athleticism; and African Americans contributed elements of social, African, and Caribbean dance, even as their undervalued role defined the limits of modern dancers' communal visions. Through their art, modern dancers challenged conventional roles and images of gender, sexuality, race, class, and regionalism with a view of American democracy that was confrontational and participatory, authorial and populist. *Modern Bodies* exposes the social dynamics that shaped American modernism and moved modern dance to the edges of society, a place both provocative and perilous.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Black Dancing Body B. Gottschild, 2016-04-30 What is the essence of black dance in America? To answer that question, Brenda Dixon Gottschild maps an unorthodox 'geography', the geography of the black dancing body, to show the central place black dance has in American culture. From the feet to the butt, to hair to skin/face, and beyond to the soul/spirit, Brenda Dixon Gottschild talks to some of the greatest choreographers of our day including Garth Fagan, Francesca Harper, Meredith Monk, Brenda Buffalino, Doug Elkins, Ralph Lemon, Fernando Bujones, Bill T. Jones, Trisha Brown, Jawole Zollar, Bebe Miller, Sean Curran and Shelly Washington to look at the evolution of black dance and its importance to American culture. This is a groundbreaking piece of work by one of the foremost African-American dance critics of our day.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Making of the American Essay John D'Agata, 2016-03-15 Now, with *The making of the American essay* the editor includes selections ranging from Anne Bradstreet's secular prayers to Washington Irving's satires, Emily Dickinson's love letters to Kenneth Goldsmith's catalog's, Gertrude Stein's portraits to James Baldwin's and Norman Mailer's meditations on boxing. In this volume the editor uncovers new stories in the American essay's past and shows us that some of the most fiercely daring writers in the American literary canon have turned to the essay in order to produce some of our culture's most exhilarating art.-- book jacket.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Joan Myers Brown and the Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina Brenda Dixon Gottschild, 2016-04-29 Founder of the Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) and the Philadelphia School of Dance Arts, Joan Myers Brown's personal and professional histories reflect the hardships as well as the advances of African-Americans in the artistic and social developments of the second half of the twentieth and the early twenty-first centuries.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Consuming Dance Colleen T. Dunagan, 2018 Dance in TV advertisements has long been familiar to Americans as a silhouette dancing against a colored screen, exhibiting moves from air guitar to breakdance tricks, all in service of selling the latest Apple product. But as author Colleen T. Dunagan shows in *Consuming Dance*, the advertising industry used dance to market items long before iPods. In this book, Dunagan lays out a comprehensive history and analysis of dance commercials to demonstrate the ways in which the form articulates with, informs, and reflects U.S. culture. In doing so, she examines dance

commercials as cultural products, looking at the ways in which dance engages with television, film, and advertising in the production of cultural meaning. Throughout the book, Dunagan interweaves semiotics, choreographic analysis, cultural studies, and critical theory in an examination of contemporary dance commercials while placing the analysis within a historical context. She draws upon connections between individual dance-commercials and the discursive and production histories to provide a thorough look into brand identity and advertising's role in constructing social identities.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *Alvin Ailey* Jennifer Dunning, 1998-03-22 Alvin Ailey (1931-1989) was a choreographic giant in the modern dance world and a champion of African-American talent and culture. His interracial Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater provided opportunities to black dancers and choreographers when no one else would. His acclaimed "Revelations" remains one of the most performed modern dance pieces in the twentieth century. But he led a tortured life, filled with insecurity and self-loathing. Raised in poverty in rural Texas by his single mother, he managed to find success early in his career, but by the 1970s his creativity had waned. He turned to drugs, alcohol, and gay bars and suffered a nervous breakdown in 1980. He was secretive about his private life, including his homosexuality, and, unbeknownst to most at the time, died from AIDS-related complications at age 58. Now, for the first time, the complete story of Ailey's life and work is revealed in this biography. Based on his personal journals and hundreds of interviews with those who knew him, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Judith Jamison, Lena Horne, Katherine Dunham, Sidney Poitier, and Dustin Hoffman, Alvin Ailey is a moving story of a man who wove his life and culture into his dance.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Afeni Shakur Jasmine Guy, 2010-05-11 Afeni Shakur, one of the most visible figures in both the hip-hop and civil rights movements, reveals her moral and spiritual development in an innovative memoir spanning four decades. Before becoming one of the most well-known members of the Black Power movement, Alice Faye Williams was not unlike any other poor, African American girl growing up in the impoverished South. But when her family moved to New York during the radical sixties, she became intoxicated by the promise of social change. By the time she turned twenty-one, Alice had a new name—Afeni Shakur, derived from the Yoruba term for lover of people—and a new vision for the future. The rest is history. In 1969, Afeni was arrested along with other members of the Black Panther party on 189 felony charges that included 30 counts of conspiracy. Though she was eventually acquitted of the charges, Afeni spent eleven months in jail before being released. Once on bail, she became pregnant with a son: Tupac Amaru Shakur, a rap megastar until his tragic death in 1996. In this searing work, renowned actress and Afeni's trusted friend Jasmine Guy reveals the evolution of a woman through a series of intimate conversations on themes such as love, death, race, drugs, politics, music, and, of course, her son. Filled with startling revelations and heartbreaking truths, Afeni's memoir is a powerful testament to the human spirit and the perseverance of the African American people.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Beloved Toni Morrison, 2006-10-17 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a spellbinding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself Beloved, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present. Combining the visionary power of legend with the unassailable truth of history, Morrison's unforgettable novel is one of the great and enduring works of American literature.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Stories from the City of God Pier Paolo Pasolini, 2019-05-21 Now in paperback, a collection of the legendary filmmaker's short fiction and nonfiction from 1950 to 1966, in which we see the machinations of the creative mind in post-World War II Rome. In a portrait of the city at once poignant and intimate, we find artistic witness to the customs, dialect,

squalor, and beauty of the ancient imperial capital that has succumbed to modern warfare, marginalization, and mass culture. The sketches portray the impoverished masses that Pasolini calls the sub-proletariat, those who live under Third World conditions and for whom simple pleasures, such as a blue sweater in a storefront window, are completely out of reach. Pasolini's art develops throughout the works collected here, from his early lyricism to tragicomic outlines for screenplays, and finally to the maturation of his Neo-realism in eight chronicles on the shantytowns of Rome. The pieces in this collection were all published in Italian journals and newspapers, and then later edited by Walter Siti in the original Italian edition.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Art of Movement Ken Browar, 2016-11-22 A stunning celebration of movement and dance in hundreds of breathtaking photographs by the creative team behind NYC Dance Project. The Art of Movement is an exquisite collection of photographs by well-known dance photographers Ken Browar and Deborah Ory that capture the movement, flow, energy, and grace of many of the most accomplished dancers in the world. Featured are more than 70 dancers from companies including American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Martha Graham Dance Company, Boston Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, The Royal Ballet, Abraham in Motion, and many more. Accompanying the photographs are intimate and inspiring words from the dancers, as well as from choreographers and artistic directors on what dance means to them.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Katherine Dunham Joanna Dee Das, 2017-05-23 One of the most important dance artists of the twentieth century, dancer and choreographer Katherine Dunham (1909-2006) created works that thrilled audiences the world over. As an African American woman, she broke barriers of race and gender, most notably as the founder of an important dance company that toured the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Australia for several decades. Through both her company and her schools, she influenced generations of performers for years to come, from Alvin Ailey to Marlon Brando to Eartha Kitt. Dunham was also one of the first choreographers to conduct anthropological research about dance and translate her findings for the theatrical stage. Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora makes the argument that Dunham was more than a dancer-she was an intellectual and activist committed to using dance to fight for racial justice. Dunham saw dance as a tool of liberation, as a way for people of African descent to reclaim their history and forge a new future. She put her theories into motion not only through performance, but also through education, scholarship, travel, and choices about her own life. Author Joanna Dee Das examines how Dunham struggled to balance artistic dreams, personal desires, economic needs, and political commitments in the face of racism and sexism. The book analyzes Dunham's multiple spheres of engagement, assessing her dance performances as a form of black feminist protest while also presenting new material about her schools in New York and East St. Louis, her work in Haiti, and her network of interlocutors that included figures as diverse as ballet choreographer George Balanchine and Senegalese president Léopold Sédar Senghor. It traces Dunham's influence over the course of several decades from the New Negro Movement of the 1920s to the Black Power Movement of the late 1960s and beyond. By drawing on a vast, never-utilized trove of archival materials along with oral histories, choreographic analysis, and embodied research, Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora offers new insight about how this remarkable woman built political solidarity through the arts.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: In a Forest, Dark and Deep Neil LaBute, 2016-05-09 She's a college professor with a prim demeanor, and he's a carpenter with a foul mouth and violent streak. Betty has a history of promiscuity that Bobby won't let her forget, and from their first taunting exchanges there are intimations also of the history between them. Yet on the night when Betty urgently needs help to empty her cabin in the woods--the cabin she's been renting to a male student--she calls on Bobby. In this exhilarating play of secrets and sibling rivalry, which had its premiere in London's West End in 2011, Neil LaBute unflinchingly explores the dark territory beyond, as Bobby sneeringly says, the lies you tell yourself to get by.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Ryszard Kapuscinski Artur Domoslawski, 2012-07-10

Reporting from such varied locations as postcolonial Africa, revolutionary Iran, the military dictatorships of Latin America and Soviet Russia, the Polish journalist and writer Ryszard Kapuściński was one of the most influential eyewitness journalists of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, he was a dauntless investigator as well as a towering literary talent, and books such as *The Emperor* and *Travels with Herodotus* founded the new genre of 'literary reportage'. It was an achievement that brought him global renown, not to mention the uninvited attentions of the CIA. In this definitive biography, Artur Domosławski shines a new light on the personal relationships of this intensely charismatic, deeply private man, examining the intractable issue at the heart of Kapuściński's life and work: the relationship and tension between journalism and literature. In researching this book, Domosławski, himself an award-winning foreign correspondent, enjoyed unprecedented access to Kapuściński's private papers. The result traces his mentor's footsteps through Africa and Latin America, delves into files and archives that Kapuściński himself examined, and records conversations with the people that he talked to in the course of his own investigations. Ryszard Kapuściński is a meticulous, riveting portrait of a complex man of intense curiosity living at the heart of dangerous times.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: A History of Theory and Method in the Study of Religion and Dance Kimerer L. LaMothe, 2018-10-22 The relationship between religion and dance is as old as humankind. Contemporary methods for studying this relationship date back a century. The difference between these two time frames is significant: scholars are still developing theories and methods capable of illuminating this vast history that take account of their limited place within it. *A History of Theory and Method in the Study of Religion and Dance* takes on a primary challenge of doing so: overcoming a conceptual dichotomy between "religion" and "dance" forged in the colonial era that justified western Christian hostility towards dance traditions across six continents over six centuries. Beginning with its enlightenment roots, LaMothe narrates a selective history of this dichotomy, revealing its ongoing work in separating dance studies from religious studies. Turning to the Bushmen of the African Kalahari, LaMothe introduces an ecokinetic approach that provides scholars with conceptual resources for mapping the generative interdependence of phenomena that appear as "dance" and/or "religion."

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Accidental Gods Anna Della Subin, 2021-12-07 NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY ESQUIRE, THE IRISH TIMES AND THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT A provocative history of men who were worshipped as gods that illuminates the connection between power and religion and the role of divinity in a secular age Ever since 1492, when Christopher Columbus made landfall in the New World and was hailed as a heavenly being, the accidental god has haunted the modern age. From Haile Selassie, acclaimed as the Living God in Jamaica, to Britain's Prince Philip, who became the unlikely center of a new religion on a South Pacific island, men made divine—always men—have appeared on every continent. And because these deifications always emerge at moments of turbulence—civil wars, imperial conquest, revolutions—they have much to teach us. In a revelatory history spanning five centuries, a cast of surprising deities helps to shed light on the thorny questions of how our modern concept of "religion" was invented; why religion and politics are perpetually entangled in our supposedly secular age; and how the power to call someone divine has been used and abused by both oppressors and the oppressed. From nationalist uprisings in India to Nigerien spirit possession cults, Anna Della Subin explores how deification has been a means of defiance for colonized peoples. Conversely, we see how Columbus, Cortés, and other white explorers amplified stories of their godhood to justify their dominion over native peoples, setting into motion the currents of racism and exclusion that have plagued the New World ever since they touched its shores. At once deeply learned and delightfully antic, *Accidental Gods* offers an unusual keyhole through which to observe the creation of our modern world. It is that rare thing: a lyrical, entertaining work of ideas, one that marks the debut of a remarkable literary career.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Dance Technique of Lester Horton Marjorie B. Perces, Ana Marie Forsythe, Cheryl Bell, 1992 A guide to the principles of dance and training

developed by Lester Horton. It includes a foreword by Alvin Ailey, reminiscences of early Lester Horton technique by Bella Lewitzky, and a three-dimensional portrait of the life and work of Lester Horton by Jana Frances-Fischer.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Dancing Spirit Judith Jamison, Howard Kaplan, 1993 The candid and provocative autobiography of the first black superstar of American dance. Voices of those who have known and worked with her through the years are interwoven with Jamison's own to make *Dancing Spirit* a vivid portrait of a life lived without a moment's waste. 45 photos.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Ungoverning Dance Ramsay Burt, 2017 *Ungoverning Dance* examines recent contemporary dance in continental Europe. Placing this in the context of neoliberalism and austerity, it argues that dancers are developing an ethico-aesthetic approach that uses dance practices as sites of resistance against dominant ideologies. It attests to the persistence of alternative ways of thinking and living.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: The Huguenots Geoffrey Treasure, 2013-07-30 From the author of *Louis XIV*, an unprecedented history of the entire Huguenot experience in France, from hopeful beginnings to tragic diaspora. Following the Reformation, a growing number of radical Protestants came together to live and worship in Catholic France. These Huguenots survived persecution and armed conflict to win—however briefly—freedom of worship, civil rights, and unique status as a protected minority. But in 1685, the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes abolished all Huguenot rights, and more than 200,000 of the radical Calvinists were forced to flee across Europe, some even farther. In this capstone work, Geoffrey Treasure tells the full story of the Huguenots' rise, survival, and fall in France over the course of a century and a half. He explores what it was like to be a Huguenot living in a "state within a state," weaving stories of ordinary citizens together with those of statesmen, feudal magnates, leaders of the Catholic revival, Henry of Navarre, Catherine de' Medici, Louis XIV, and many others. Treasure describes the Huguenots' disciplined community, their faith and courage, their rich achievements, and their unique place within Protestantism and European history. The Huguenot exodus represented a crucial turning point in European history, Treasure contends, and he addresses the significance of the Huguenot story—the story of a minority group with the power to resist and endure in one of early modern Europe's strongest nations. "A formidable work, covering complex, fascinating, horrifying and often paradoxical events over a period of more than 200 years...Treasure's work is a monument to the courage and heroism of the Huguenots."—Piers Paul Read, *The Tablet*

alvin ailey revelations analysis: All American Boys Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely, 2015-09-29 A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature. In this New York Times bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's pleadings that he's stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement? There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad's classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad's best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before. Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this four-starred reviewed tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken directly

from today's headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Confronting Without Offending Deborah Smith Pegues, 2009-03-01 Where there are people, there are disagreements and misunderstandings. The author of *30 Days to Taming Your Tongue* (more than 500,000 copies sold), a popular speaker, and a relationship strategist, Deborah Smith Pegues draws on biblical principles, personal experience, and research to show how to approach difficult situations so relationships are strengthened rather than broken. Meeting face-to-face to resolve an issue is difficult, but Pegues makes it easier by revealing how to avoid complications, sharing examples of good communication, and offering specific steps for dealing with conflicts. Readers will discover: effective and compassionate techniques for handling conflict practical strategies for resolving conflict how personality types influence discussions suggestions for minimizing defensiveness ideas for developing and promoting cooperation *Confronting Without Offending* gives readers the tools to successfully talk over and resolve issues and misunderstandings at home, at work, and in social situations.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: A Game for Dancers Gay Morris, 2006 The first in-depth study of the modern dance world of the 1940s and 1950s

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater* Jack Mitchell, 1993 Clipping and miscellaneous material on reviews of Alvin, Ailey Dance theater performances and history.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *The Nuns of Sant'Ambrogio* Hubert Wolf, 2015-01-13 A true, never-before-told story—discovered in a secret Vatican archive—of sex, poison, and lesbian initiation rites in a nineteenth-century convent. In 1858, a German princess, recently inducted into the convent of Sant'Ambrogio in Rome, wrote a frantic letter to her cousin, a confidant of the Pope, claiming that she was being abused and feared for her life. What the subsequent investigation by the Church's Inquisition uncovered were the extraordinary secrets of Sant'Ambrogio and the illicit behavior of the convent's beautiful young mistress, Maria Luisa. Having convinced those under her charge that she was having regular visions and heavenly visitations, Maria Luisa began to lead and coerce her novices into lesbian initiation rites and heresies. She entered into a highly eroticized relationship with a young theologian known as Padre Peters—urging him to dispense upon her, in the privacy and sanctity of the confessional box, what the two of them referred to as the “special blessing.” What emerges through the fog of centuries is a sex scandal of ecclesiastical significance, skillfully brought to light and vividly reconstructed in scholarly detail. Offering a broad historical background on female mystics and the cult of the Virgin Mary, and drawing on written testimony and original documents, Professor Wolf—Germany's leading scholar of the Catholic Church, and among the very first scholars to be granted access to the archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly the office of the Inquisition—tells the incredible story of how one woman was able to perpetrate deception, heresy, seduction, and murder in the heart of the Church itself.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: No Fixed Points Nancy Reynolds, Malcolm McCormick, 2021-02-09

alvin ailey revelations analysis: *Shapeshifters* Aimee Meredith Cox, 2015-08-07 In *Shapeshifters* Aimee Meredith Cox explores how young Black women in a Detroit homeless shelter contest stereotypes, critique their status as partial citizens, and negotiate poverty, racism, and gender violence to create and imagine lives for themselves. Based on eight years of fieldwork at the Fresh Start shelter, Cox shows how the shelter's residents—who range in age from fifteen to twenty-two—employ strategic methods she characterizes as choreography to disrupt the social hierarchies and prescriptive narratives that work to marginalize them. Among these are dance and poetry, which residents learn in shelter workshops. These outlets for performance and self-expression, Cox shows, are key to the residents exercising their agency, while their creation of alternative family structures demands a rethinking of notions of care, protection, and love. Cox also uses these young women's experiences to tell larger stories: of Detroit's history, the Great Migration, deindustrialization, the politics of respectability, and the construction of Black girls and

women as social problems. With *Shapeshifters* Cox gives a voice to young Black women who find creative and non-normative solutions to the problems that come with being young, Black, and female in America.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Understanding Narrative Inquiry Jeong-Hee Kim, 2015-03-03 *Understanding Narrative Inquiry: The Crafting and Analysis of Stories as Research* is a comprehensive, thought-provoking introduction to narrative inquiry in the social and human sciences that guides readers through the entire narrative inquiry process—from locating narrative inquiry in the interdisciplinary context, through the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings, to narrative research design, data collection (excavating stories), data analysis and interpretation, and theorizing narrative meaning. Six extracts from exemplary studies, together with questions for discussion, are provided to show how to put theory into practice. Rich in stories from author Jeong-Hee Kim's own research endeavors and incorporating chapter-opening vignettes that illustrate a graduate student's research dilemma, the book not only accompanies readers through the complex process of narrative inquiry with ample examples, but also helps raise their consciousness about what it means to be a qualitative researcher and a narrative inquirer in particular.

alvin ailey revelations analysis: Understanding Dance Graham McFee, 2003-09-02 *Understanding Dance* is a comprehensive introduction to the aesthetics of dance, and will be an essential text for all those interested in dance as an object of study. Focusing on the work of a number of major choreographers, companies and critics Graham McFee explores the nature of our understanding of Dance by considering the practice of understanding dance-works themselves. He concludes with a validation of the place of dance in society and in education. Throughout he provides detailed insights into the nature and appreciation of art as well as a general grounding in philosophy.

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