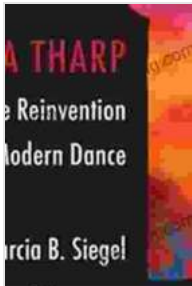


# Twyla Tharp: The Reinvention of Modern Dance



## Howling Near Heaven: Twyla Tharp and the Reinvention of Modern Dance by Marcia B. Siegel

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8488 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 368 pages





Twyla Tharp is widely recognized as one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. With her groundbreaking techniques, innovative dances, and fearless exploration of the human body, she has led a profound revolution in the world of modern dance. Her work transcends traditional boundaries, blending various styles, genres, and disciplines to create a truly unique and unforgettable experience for audiences and dancers alike.

### **Early Life and Influences**

Tharp was born in Portland, Indiana, in 1941. She began dancing at the age of six, and by the time she was a teenager, she was already an accomplished dancer. Her early dance education included classes in ballet, tap, and jazz. However, it was after discovering modern dance that Tharp truly found her passion.

Tharp's major influences include Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. Graham's focus on emotional expression through movement deeply inspired her, while Cunningham's exploration of time, space, and chance in dance left a lasting impact on her artistic development.

### **Unconventional Approach**

Tharp's approach to dance has always been unconventional. She is known for her innovative use of music, her incorporation of everyday movements into her choreography, and her emphasis on the individual artistry of the dancer. She believes that dance is not just about steps and technique but also about expressing emotions, ideas, and stories through movement.

One of Tharp's most distinctive traits is her ability to fuse different dance styles and genres. She draws inspiration from jazz, ballet, modern dance, and even sports to create a truly eclectic and dynamic form of dance. This approach has led to the creation of many of her most famous works, including "Push Comes to Shove" (1976) and "Movin' Out" (2002).

### **Collaboration in Creation**

Tharp is also renowned for her collaborative nature. She often works with dancers, musicians, and designers to bring her artistic visions to life. Tharp believes that collaboration fosters creativity and allows her to create works that are truly original and unique.

One of her most successful collaborations was with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Together, they created several groundbreaking works, including "Push Comes to Shove" and "Sinatra Suite" (1983). Tharp's ability to bring out the best in dancers and create a collaborative environment has further solidified her reputation as a visionary choreographer.

## **Legacy and Influence**

Tharp's groundbreaking choreography and innovative approach to dance have had a profound impact on the world of dance and beyond. Her work continues to inspire and influence generations of dancers and choreographers.

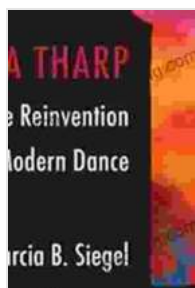
Tharp has received numerous awards and accolades for her work, including the Tony Award, the Emmy Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors. In 1988, she was named a MacArthur Fellow, and in 2008, she received the National Medal of Arts from President George W. Bush.

## **Beyond Choreography**

In addition to her work as a choreographer, Tharp has also written several books on dance, including "Push Comes to Shove" (1992) and "The Creative Habit" (2003). She has also taught workshops and master classes all over the world, sharing her knowledge and expertise with aspiring dancers.

Twyla Tharp's extraordinary contributions to the world of dance have forever changed the way we perceive this art form. Her groundbreaking choreography, innovative use of movement, and collaborative approach have inspired countless artists and dancers. Tharp continues to be a

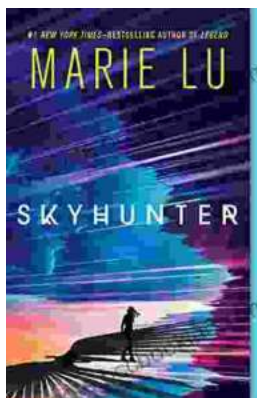
visionary in the dance world, inspiring generations with her passion, creativity, and dedication to her craft.



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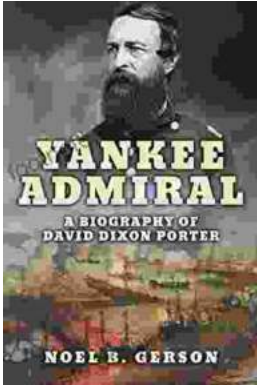
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