

Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo: The Visionaries Who Shaped Butoh Dance

The captivating world of Japanese Butoh dance owes its existence to the visionary artistry of Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo. These enigmatic figures revolutionized the art form, pushing its boundaries and leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of contemporary performance.

This article embarks on a journey into the lives and artistic legacies of these two extraordinary individuals. We will explore their unconventional techniques, delve into their profound philosophies, and trace the enduring influence they have had on the world of dance and beyond.



Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo (Routledge Performance Practitioners)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 194 pages

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Hijikata Tatsumi: The Master of Darkness and Distortion



Born in 1928, Hijikata Tatsumi is considered the father of Butoh. His dance style was characterized by its raw, grotesque, and often violent expressions. He sought to defy the conventional notions of beauty and movement, delving into the depths of human darkness and suffering.

Hijikata's techniques included slow and distorted movements, contorted poses, and an emphasis on the body's tactile and sensual qualities.

Through his performances, he aimed to confront audiences with the unsettling and disturbing aspects of human existence.

Ohno Kazuo: The Poet of Silence and Sublimity



Ohno Kazuo performing his ethereal style of Butoh dance.

Born in 1906, Ohno Kazuo's dance style stood in stark contrast to Hijikata's. His movements were characterized by a sense of lightness,

grace, and poetic beauty. He sought to explore the inner landscape of the body, finding inspiration in nature and the ephemeral qualities of life.

Ohno's techniques emphasized a deep connection to the breath and a merging with the surrounding environment. His performances often conveyed a sense of solitude, silence, and longing.

The Collision of Two Titans

The meeting of Hijikata and Ohno in the 1960s was a pivotal moment in Butoh history. Despite their contrasting approaches, they found common ground in their desire to challenge artistic norms and push the boundaries of human expression.

Their collaboration resulted in groundbreaking performances that combined the power and darkness of Hijikata's style with the ethereal beauty of Ohno's. They influenced a generation of Butoh dancers and left an enduring legacy in the world of contemporary dance.

Legacy and Influence

The work of Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo continues to inspire and challenge artists worldwide. Their innovative techniques and profound philosophies have found application in fields ranging from dance to theater, film, and visual arts.

Butoh dance has become an influential art form that defies easy categorization. It invites audiences to embrace the unconventional, confront the depths of human emotion, and transcend the boundaries of perception.

Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo were visionary artists who transformed the landscape of dance. Through their groundbreaking techniques and

unwavering commitment to artistic exploration, they created a powerful and evocative art form that continues to captivate and inspire.

Their legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of art and its ability to challenge our perceptions of the human body and the world around us.

Interested in delving deeper into the lives and contributions of these extraordinary artists? We highly recommend the Routledge Performance Practitioners book: "Hijikata Tatsumi and Ohno Kazuo," which provides an in-depth analysis of their work and its impact on contemporary performance.

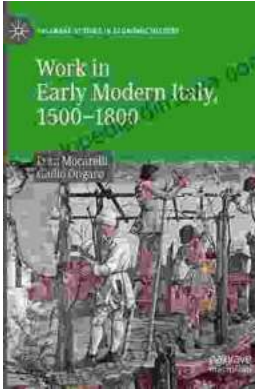


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