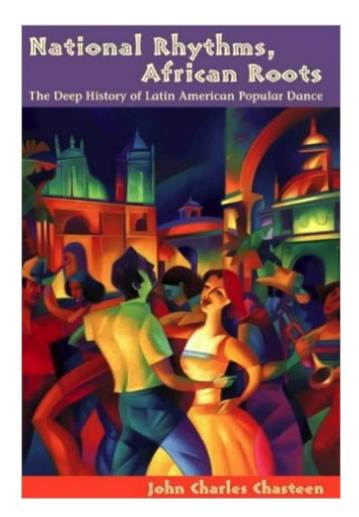
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National Rhythms, African Roots: The Deep History Of Latin American Popular Dance (Dialogos) (DiÃilogos Series)





Synopsis

When John Charles Chasteen learned that Simà n BolÃ-var, the Liberator, danced on a banquet table to celebrate Latin American independence in 1824, he tried to visualize the scene. How, he wondered, did the Liberator dance? Did he bounce stiffly in his dress uniform? Or did he move his hips? In other words, how high had African dance influences reached in Latin American societies? A vast social gap separated BolÃ- var from people of African descent; however, Chasteen's research shows that popular culture could bridge the gap.Fast-paced and often funny, this book explores the history of Latin American popular dance before the twentieth century. Chasteen first focuses on Havana, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro, where dances featuring a "transgressive close embrace" (forerunners of today's salsa, tango, and samba) emerged by 1900. Then, digging deeper in time, Chasteen uncovers the historical experiences that molded Latin American popular dance, including carnival celebrations, the social lives of slaves, European fashions, and, oddly enough, religious processions. The relationship between Latin American dance and nationalism, it turns out, is very deep, indeed.

Book Information

Series: DiÂfÂ_ilogos Series Paperback: 269 pages Publisher: University of New Mexico Press (January 30, 2004) Language: English ISBN-10: 0826329411 ISBN-13: 978-0826329417 Product Dimensions: 9 x 6.1 x 0.7 inches Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review) Best Sellers Rank: #253,026 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Popular #10 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk #35 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Dance

Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's clearly based on academic research, but is written in a very engaging manner. This author is an academic who can write!! If you're intrigued by Latin music and dancing, I can highly recommend this book.

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