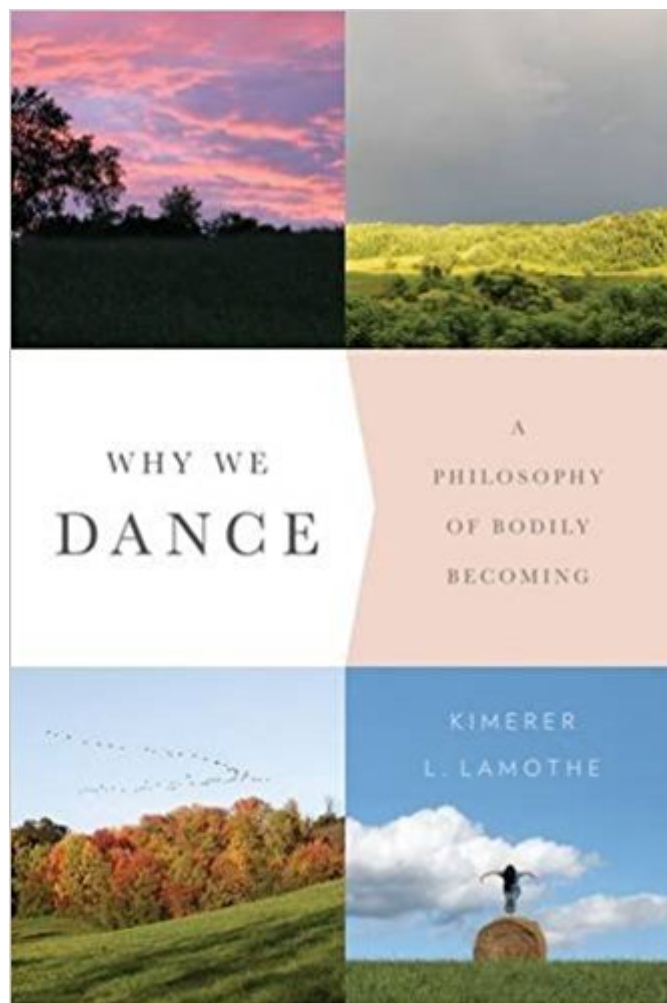


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# Why We Dance: A Philosophy Of Bodily Becoming



## Synopsis

Within intellectual paradigms that privilege mind over matter, dance has long appeared as a marginal, derivative, or primitive art. Drawing support from theorists and artists who embrace matter as dynamic and agential, this book offers a visionary definition of dance that illuminates its constitutive work in the ongoing evolution of human persons. *Why We Dance* introduces a philosophy of bodily becoming that posits bodily movement as the source and telos of human life. Within this philosophy, dance appears as an activity that humans evolved to do as the enabling condition of their best bodily becoming. Weaving theoretical reflection with accounts of lived experience, this book positions dance as a catalyst in the development of human consciousness, compassion, ritual proclivity, and ecological adaptability. Aligning with trends in new materialism, affect theory, and feminist philosophy, as well as advances in dance and religious studies, this work reveals the vital role dance can play in reversing the trajectory of ecological self-destruction along which human civilization is racing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(Karin Stevens writing on my husbands account.)This book is one of the most important books on dance of our time! In fact, it is FOR our time. LaMothe draws from science, philosophy and religious studies to make a clear case that dance matters at the most fundamental understanding of existence; and that movement is the building block of life and "the currency of evolution." Our only way through this 11th hour time for our planet and our species is to return to the movement of nature and the body, understanding that the movements of nature and the body are connected.

Why We Dance is as much a book about the epistemological and ontological meaning of movement as it is a proclamation of hope for this planetary time. It should be required reading for all dance students in undergraduate and graduate level work and therefore propel these dance-advocate humans out into all sectors of life beyond the traditional places of concert stages and dance classrooms. My hope and vision is that then someday this book will be required reading for studies in philosophy, medicine, anthropology, environmental studies...etc!

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