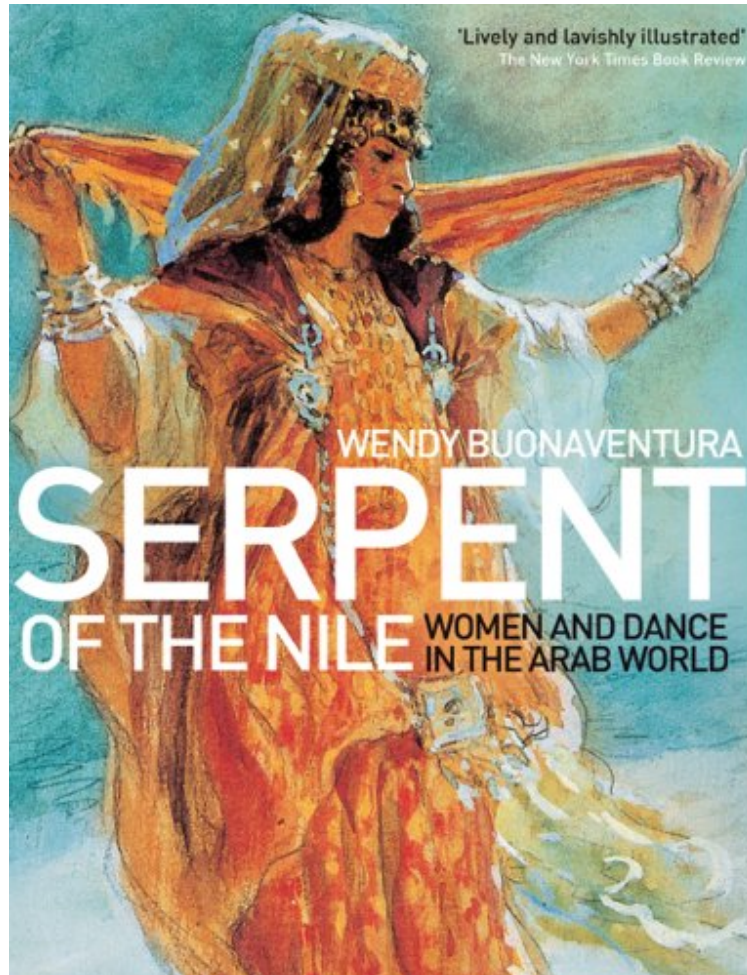


(Free) Serpent of the Nile: Women and Dance in the Arab World

## Serpent of the Nile: Women and Dance in the Arab World

Wendy Buonaventura

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**Wendy Buonaventura : Serpent of the Nile: Women and Dance in the Arab World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Serpent of the Nile: Women and Dance in the Arab World:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful but limited historyBy AlliI would like to second everything in Teresa Robert's review. This is a beautiful, wonderful book. But as an actual history of "oriental" dance it lacks nuance and complexity, which is partly due to limited evidence and the author's romantic attachment to the women-centered mythology about this dance. For instance, the text overstates the evidence for connections between the belly dance of the last 150 years and the practices of ancient, goddess worship in presumably more woman-friendly times. I share this same romantic attachment to the dance's feminist roots, but actual history is always more fought and complex. As a result the author over-generalizes and does a incomplete job analyzing the orientalism that feeds so much of the beautiful imagery she includes. In the end, this book is great resource for costuming, late 19th

century orientalist accounts of the women's dance, and a vast range of old pictures photos. Moreover it does a decent job with the early to mid 20th century history and professionalization of the dance. Just look to additional sources for a more well-rounded history, particularly for pre 20th century and regional dances/costuming. I still highly recommend this book to anyone interested in bellydance or orientalism. The images alone are worth the price. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. illustrations poor in new version  
By Zelee I bought this book because I'd seen the original and loved it. I was very dismayed to see the new size of this version because half the charm of the book is it's illustrations. I didn't open the book for a week thinking I might return it. When I decided to open it I was extremely disappointed. Not only are the illustrations so small now, but they are also badly reproduced, not sharp and with details missing. DON'T BUY THIS BOOK if you ever saw and loved the first version. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Middle Eastern Dance History - Very well researched and written  
By Heather Fantastic book on the history of dance in the middle east. Beautiful pictures. A must read for anyone interested in the real history of today's "bellydance". Also of interest to women in general.

Newly updated and reissued in an appealing new format, this classic book is a lavishly illustrated celebration of female dancers of the Arab world and their impact on the West. "I think it is the most eloquent of female dances, with its haunting lyricism, its fire, its endlessly shifting kaleidoscope of sensual movement." With these words, Wendy Buonaventura explains her own fascination with Arabic dance and gives the reader a thorough understanding of the origins, history and development of this ancient art, which has survived in the face of commercialism, religious disapproval, and changing times.

From Publishers Weekly A study of the history of the Middle Eastern solo woman's dance. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. 'A delight to browse through and just as interesting to read...sumptuously illustrated.' Time Out 'A lively and lavishly illustrated excursion into the history of the solo woman's dance.' --The New York Times Book "An articulate book that speaks with many voices of the glory as well as the shadows surrounding the oriental dance of yesteryear and today. Buonaventura's amalgamation of materials-textual and visual-evoke a work by someone whose respect for the subject is both tasteful and thoughtful...Arabesque salutes the authoress..." --Arabesque Magazine "Serpent of the Nile features a perceptive discussion of the history of female solo dancing in the Middle East and its effect on dancers and artists throughout the world. The ninety full-color and fifty black-and-white sumptuous illustrations communicate the color and sensuality, poetry and passion, sophistication and subtlety of her subject." --Dance Magazine  
About the Author Wendy Buonaventura is an Anglo-Italian dancer and writer. Her first book on Oriental dance was published in London in 1983. Serpent of the Nile was chosen as The Observer Book of the Year. She has also written and presented programmes for the BBC World Service. She has pioneered the development of Arabic dance as a theatre art in the West and her work has been featured at festivals throughout Europe and in the United States.