

## Review

Lansley, J. (2017) *Choreographies, Tracing the Materials of an Ephemeral Art Form*, Bristol, UK Chicago USA: Intellect Books

'Choreographies, Tracing the Materials of an Ephemeral Art Form' is an in depth analysis of the work of Jacky Lansley from experimental beginnings in 1972 to current practice in 2017. It is a thoughtful and insightful look at the subject of choreography and all the complexities of making work. Collaboration is a key ingredient of the book as each work is documented, and individual contributions respectfully acknowledged.

While it is a remarkable and personal account of a lifetime's commitment to making work, it also provides a valuable insight into the independent dance sector, in particular the movement known as 'New Dance'. For dance students seeking to research and understand this point of dance history this is particularly valuable, as it provides not only a historical reference but also a practical link to their choreographic studies and the age-old question 'How do artists make work'? From this point of view it becomes a very valuable resource for students and lecturers alike to share thoughts on the British dance movement and creative practice.

The book is also a detailed tale of the many contexts and situations in which dance can be created from site specific venues including galleries to more traditional performance spaces. Other choreographers are referenced as a lifetime in the art form is debated raising questions of how work is taken from process to performance and the challenges of finding suitable venues.

Survival undoubtedly raises the issue of resources linked to perceptions of dance and the survival of the independent dance sector. The place of dance is debated alongside the power of dance to make a difference in areas such as community dance, where choreographers employ skills acquired through training, research and professional practice to meet the challenges of working with diverse groups.

Amid the complex questions and struggles of working as an independent choreographer the range of work present in the book with its multiple contexts and voices is a celebratory affair, demonstrating the power of reflecting on such a significant body of work. Seasoned professionals and students alike will discover there is much to be gained from a reading of 'Choreographies...and as the author states that she would like the book to be read ...as a form of choreography which is close to artistic and body impulses; a creative 'thing' in its own right ....' This

will be an enriching experience, full of notes, images and photographs, bringing Lansley's work to life, adding colour and further insights.

I look forward to sharing it with future students.

Rosie Lehan- Dance Lecturer  
(Course Director: Accredited Training - IRIE! dance theatre)