

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465572703321
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Titolo	Dancing Culture Religion [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lanham, : Lexington Books, 2012
ISBN	1-283-54883-6 9786613861283 0-7391-7474-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 p.)
Collana	Studies in Body and Religion
Altri autori (Persone)	CarpRichard NorrisRebecca Sachs
Disciplina	306.4846
Soggetti	Dance -- Anthropological aspects Dance -- Religious aspects Dance -- Social aspects Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Chapter One: Moving; Chapter Two: Gesturing; Chapter Three: Self-Othering; Chapter Four: Playing; Chapter Five: Seducing; Chapter Six: Dancing; Bibliography; Index; About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	Provocative insights into the nature of dancing as inseparable from human vitality and distinctiveness emerge from this spiraling study of specific cultural dance traditions brought into conversation with various philosophical/theoretical perspectives centering on the topics: movement, gesture, play, masking, ritual, seduction, performance, religion; each the subject of engaging innovative analysis. The author draws on experience as dancer and academic to address contemporary issues such as gender identity development and plasticity and acuity throughout the lifespan.