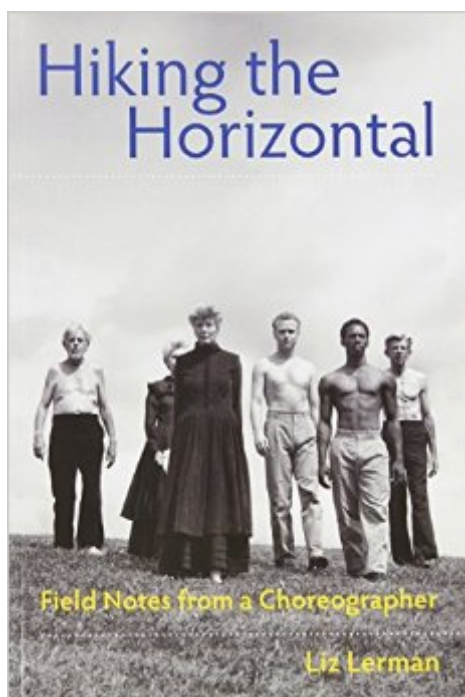


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Hiking The Horizontal: Field Notes From A Choreographer



Synopsis

The unique career of choreographer Liz Lerman has taken her from theater stages to shipyards, and from synagogues to science labs. In this wide-ranging collection of essays and articles, she reflects on her life-long exploration of dance as a vehicle for human insight and understanding of the world around us. Lerman has been described by the *Washington Post* as "the source of an epochal revolution in the scope and purposes of dance art." Here, she combines broad outlooks on culture and society with practical applications and accessible stories. Her expansive scope encompasses the craft, structure, and inspiration that bring theatrical works to life as well as the applications of art in fields as diverse as faith, aging, particle physics, and human rights law. Offering readers a gentle manifesto describing methods that bring a horizontal focus to bear on a hierarchical world, this is the perfect book for anyone curious about the possible role for art in politics, science, community, motherhood, and the media. The paperback edition includes an afterword with updates and additions to each section of the book.

Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Wesleyan; Reprint edition (May 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819574368

ISBN-13: 978-0819574367

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #229,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Arts & Photography](#) > [Performing Arts](#) > [Dance](#) > [Notation](#) #7 in [Books > Arts & Photography](#) > [Performing Arts](#) > [Dance](#) > [Choreography](#) #4926 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences](#) > [Sociology](#)

Customer Reviews

Like her work itself, Lerman's book, *Hiking the Horizontal*, crosses boundaries in ways that are transformative for all who encounter it. The book emerges from her work in both "concert" and communal settings, i.e., from her decades of experience in both the professional/performance world and in senior centers, places of worship, scientific research facilities, universities, and beyond. So what results is an extraordinarily rich and generous sharing of her keen observations and of her probing, insatiable curiosity about humanity, society, community, art, religion, and, of course, dance.

Her insights are simply brilliant, often astonishing, and conveyed in language that is intelligent yet relatable, philosophical yet down-to-earth. She invites readers to wonder and marvel along with her, and her invitation is irresistible. Whether you consider yourself an intellectual, spiritual, entrepreneurial, or creative soul, you will find this book profoundly thought-provoking, because regardless of your specific profession or interests, it will transform the way you think about the world and how you engage in it. As a rabbinical student, I have found selections in the book that are shaping how I see my role as a spiritual leader, how I understand community, how I will counsel and provide pastoral care, and how I understand innovation in relation to my religious tradition. The book helps me see some of the limits of our current societal and communal structures, constantly reminds me of the power of story, and teaches me tremendously important lessons about where religion and art intersect. The book also speaks to questions of personal spirituality, such as wholeness, prayer, transcending ourselves, and our sense of what is holy.

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