



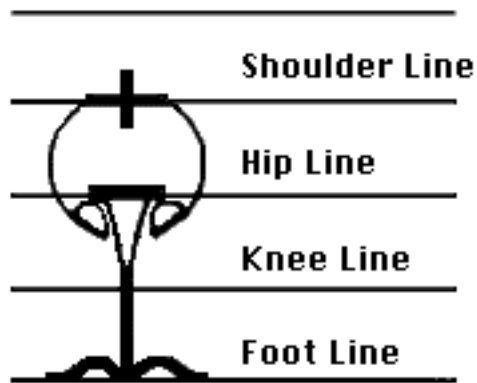
Sutton

DanceWriting[®]

...read and write the movements of dance...

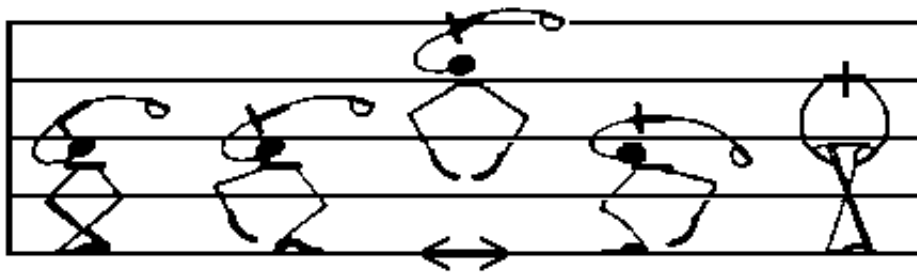
Sutton DanceWriting

DanceWriting is a way to read and write any kind of dance movement. A stick figure drawing is written on a five-lined staff. Each line of the staff represents a specific level. The bottom line of the staff is called the Foot Line. It represents the ground. The next line up is the Knee Line, which is at knee level, when the stick figure stands straight. The next line up is the Hip Line, and after that, the Shoulder Line:



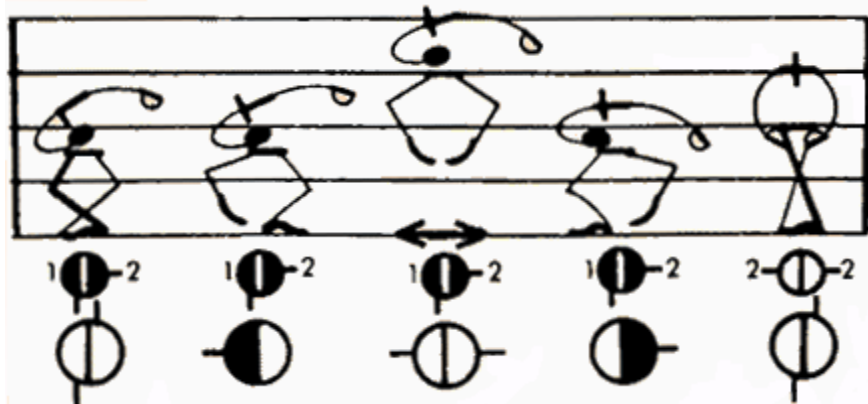
Levels

When the figure bends its knees or jumps in the air, it is lowered or raised accordingly on the staff. The five-lined staff acts as a level guide. Figures and symbols are written from left to right, notating movement position by position, as if stopping a film frame by frame.



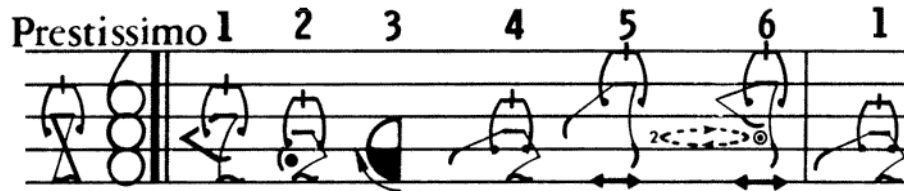
3-D Symbols

When more detail is necessary, special 3-D Symbols, representing the third dimension, are written under the stick figures. There are two rows of 3-D Symbols. The round circles picture the head as seen from above, providing an "overhead view". The spokes projecting from the circles show the direction of the limbs in relation to the center of the body. The first row of small symbols represents the overhead view of the arms and upper body. The second row of large symbols represents the overhead view of the legs and lower body:

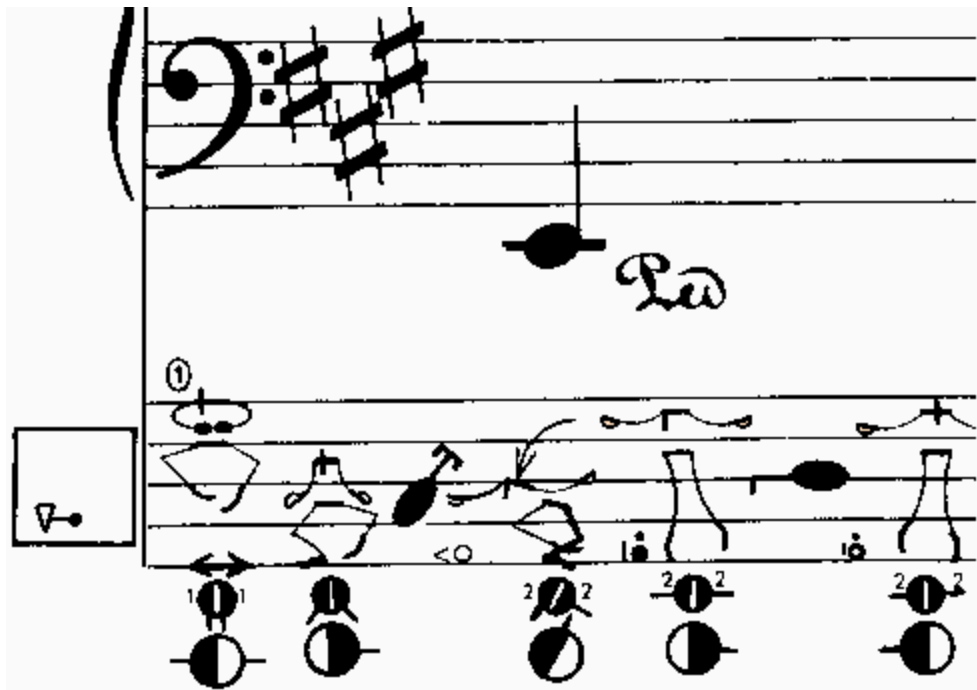


Music Counts

Counts coordinating with the written music are placed above the staff and the dance is divided into dance measures.

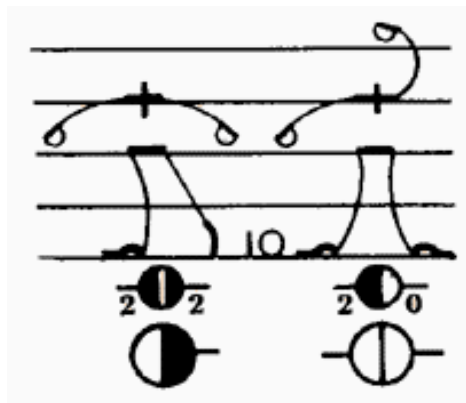


Or the dance can be written directly under the musical notes:



DanceWriting Shorthand

DanceWriting Shorthand enables the writer to write movement at the speed it occurs. Similar to a secretarial shorthand, it is a shortened version of the stick figure, that, with special training, is written without looking at the hands. An entire solo dance can be captured in "first-draft" form using the Shorthand. The Shorthand notes are later transcribed into detailed DanceWriting. Once one is skilled in Dance Writing, it takes about 20 hours of special training to learn the Shorthand. In the late 1970's, hundreds of dance students in the Boston Conservatory of Music's Dance Department learned the Shorthand with success.



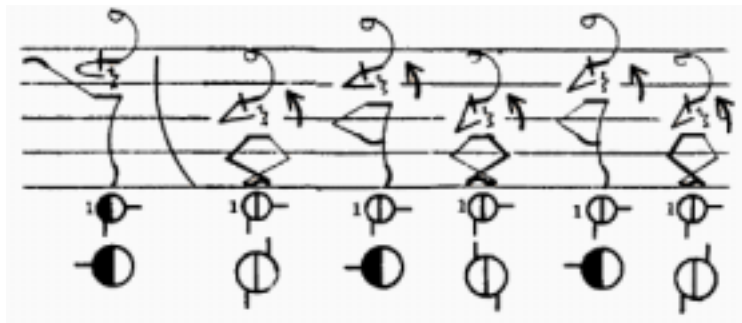
DanceWriting



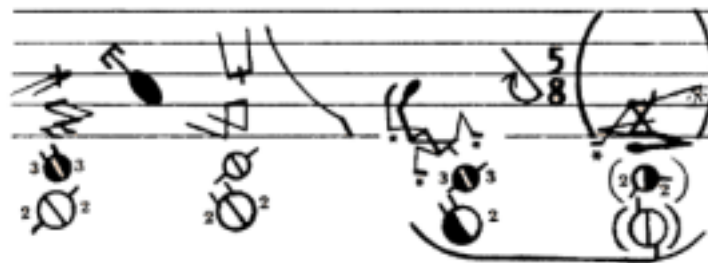
DanceWriting Shorthand

Examples of Notated Sheet Dance

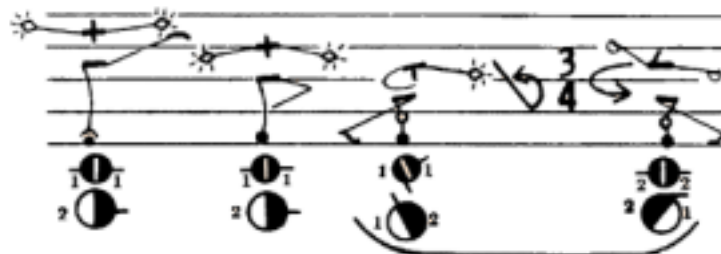
Classical Ballet



Modern Dance

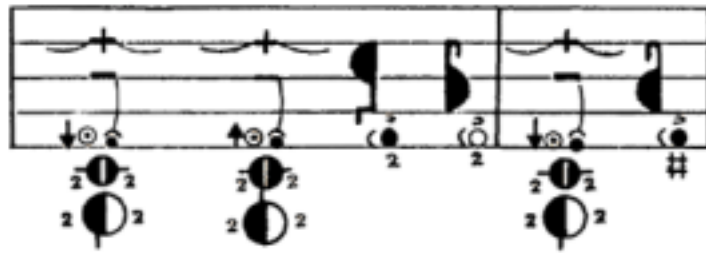


Jazz Dance

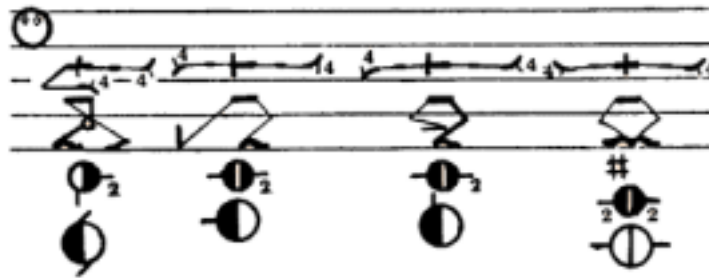


Examples of Notated Sheet Dance

Tap Dance



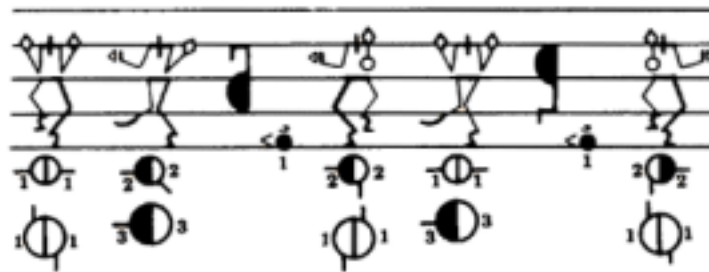
Folk Dance



Social Dance

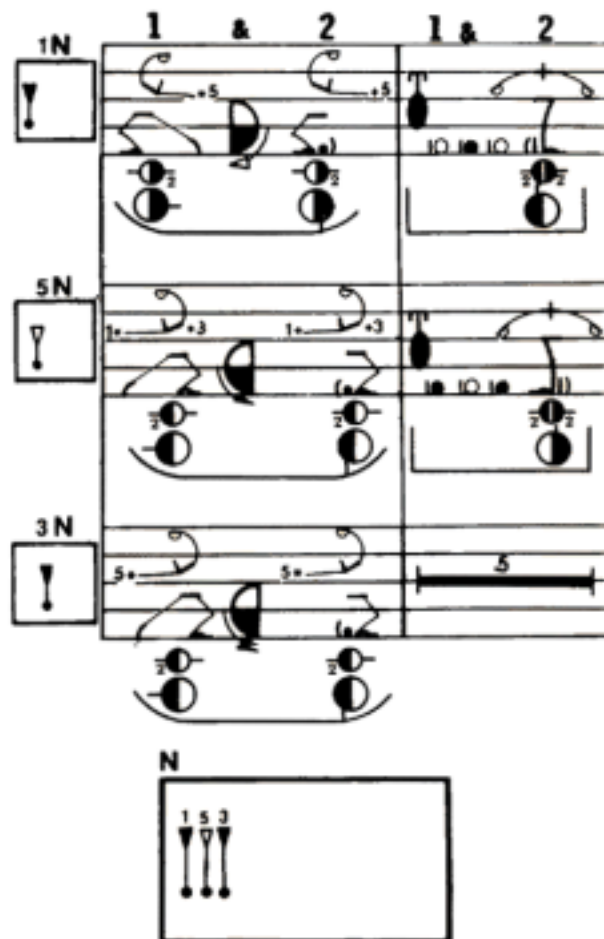
Ballroom & Disco

Below is an example of the Charleston from the 1920's.



Writing Group Dance

When more than one dancer moves at a time, as in "pas de deux" (dance for two) or in group dances, the notation for each person is placed on a separate staff line. The movements for each dancer are coordinated under the same counts, placed above the first staff with numbers. If many dancers move in unison, their movements are written only once, on one staff line, which shortens the group dance manuscript greatly. Large pattern stages are written at the bottom of the page, showing the interaction of the dancers. Group dance scores in Sutton DanceWriting have the same advantage of instrumental scores in written music:



Sutton Movement Writing & Shorthand

is a complete movement notation system for recording all body movement. The system includes five sections:

1. **DanceWriting**, records dance choreography
2. **SignWriting**, records sign languages
3. **MimeWriting**, records classic mime and gesture
4. **SportsWriting**, records gymnastics, ice skating, karate
5. **ScienceWriting**, records body language & gesture

DanceWriting was invented first, taught to the Royal Danish Ballet in 1974. That same year, SignWriting began in Denmark, at the University of Copenhagen. DanceWriting and SignWriting are the most used of the five sections.

For more information
about Sutton Movement Writing contact:

Valerie Sutton
Sutton@DanceWriting.org

The DanceWriting Web Site
<https://www.DanceWriting.org>

The SignWriting Web Site
<https://www.SignWriting.org>

The Movement Writing Web Site
<https://www.MovementWriting.org>

DanceWriting Publications



A Collection Of Classical Ballet Variations

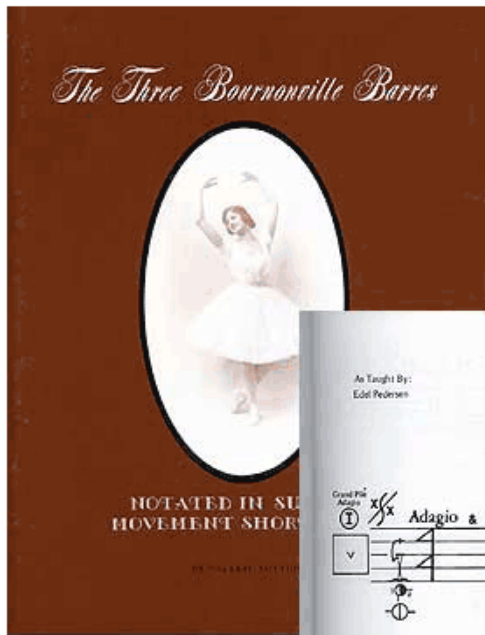
Six notated classical ballet variations from the Ballet Russe, including solos from Sleeping Beauty, The Lilac Fiary, Aurora's Solo, and the Bluebird Female Solo and the Four Little Swans from Swan Lake. ISBN: 0-914336-19-3



Selection Of Isadora Duncan Dances

"The Schubert Selection"

A beautiful and rare publication of Isadora Duncan Dances to Schubert's music, as taught by Duncan expert Sylvia Gold. Notated in DanceWriting by Lorraine Spada. Includes photographs of the costumes worn to perform the dances. ISBN: 0-914336-20-7



The Monday-Thursday Barre

As Taught By: Edel Pedersen Notated By: Valerie Sutton

Grand Prix Adagio ① *Adagio* 4/4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

D.S. *Allegro*

**SHEET DANCE:
Bournonville Schools,
Three Bournonville
Barres**

The Bournonville Schools: The Three Bournonville Barres. August Bournonville was the famous ballet master of the Royal Danish Ballet in 1832. Bournonville style dancing is world famous. He created a special training system for dancers, called "the Bournonville Schools". There is one lesson, or "school", for every day of the week. There were three barres. This book records the three Bournonville barres, which have been passed down by word of mouth and demonstration for over a century. Notated in Denmark by Valerie Sutton in 1971, from the memory of Bournonville teacher Edel Pedersen. Two paperback books come together: the Sheet Dance book notates the dance steps, and an accompanying Sheet Music book includes the complete music score, used at the Royal Danish Ballet.

ISBN 978-0-914336-16-7

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The Monday School

As Taught By: *Edel Pedersen* Notated By: *Valerie Sutton*

Des Fines Adagio
(The Fine Adagio)

Adagio 4

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SHEET DANCE: Bournonville Schools, Monday School

The Bournonville Schools: The Monday School. August Bournonville was the famous ballet master of the Royal Danish Ballet in 1832. Bournonville style dancing is world famous. He created a special training system for dancers, called "the Bournonville Schools". There is one lesson, or "school", for every day of the week. This book records the complete Monday School, which has been passed down by word of mouth and demonstration for over a century. Notated in Denmark by Valerie Sutton in 1971, from the memory of Bournonville teacher Edel Pedersen. Two paperback books come together: the Sheet Dance book notates the dance steps, and an accompanying Sheet Music book includes the complete music score, used at the Royal Danish Ballet.

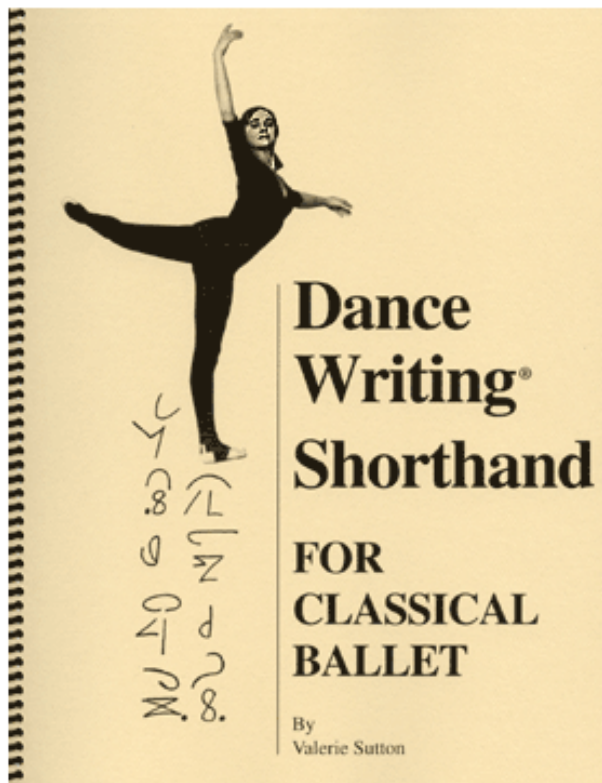
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BOOK: DanceWriting Shorthand For Classical Ballet

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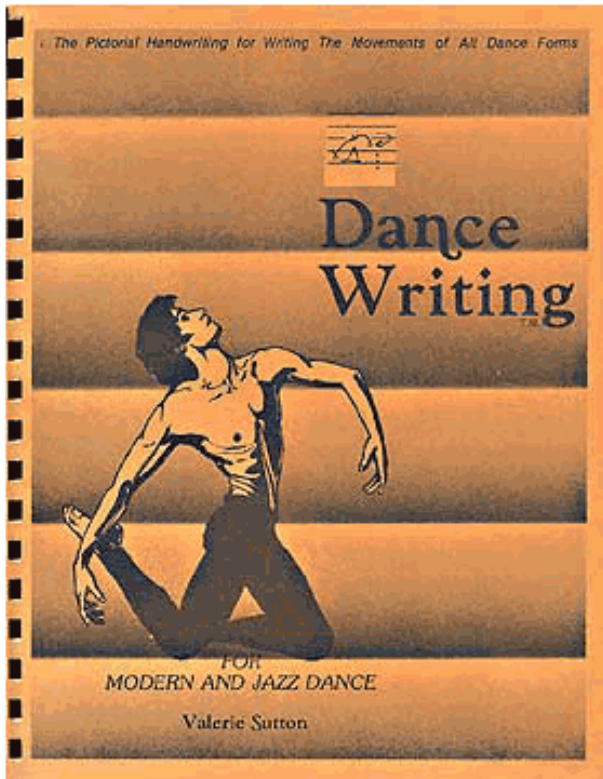
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BOOK: DanceWriting For Modern and Jazz Dance Textbook

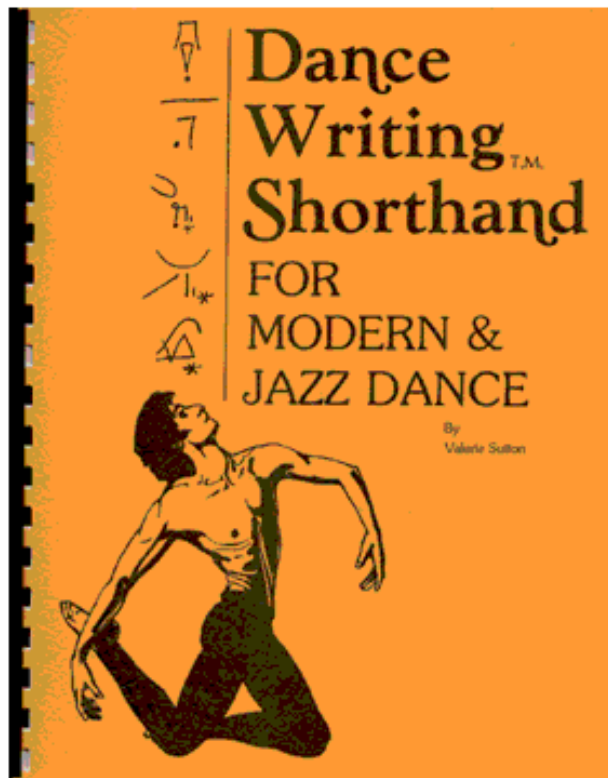
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Instruction textbook teaching the reading and writing of modern and jazz dance. This book is considered the definitive work for the Sutton Movement Writing system, because it is a reference for writing any kind of body movement. Author: Valerie Sutton. Thick paperback with plastic spiral bind. A workbook in the back provides writing practice.

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