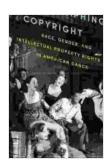
# Race, Gender, and Intellectual Property Rights in American Dance: A Long-Standing History of Inequality

Dance is a powerful form of expression that can communicate stories, emotions, and ideas. It is also a form of intellectual property, and as such, dancers have the right to protect their creative work. However, the history of dance in America is marked by a long-standing history of inequality, with Black and female dancers facing significant challenges in protecting their intellectual property rights.



### **Choreographing Copyright: Race, Gender, and Intellectual Property Rights in American Dance**

by Alberto Pian

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 23068 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 329 pages Lending : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported



#### Minstrel Shows and the Commodification of Black Dance

One of the earliest examples of the exploitation of Black dance in America can be found in minstrel shows. These shows, which were popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries, featured white performers in blackface who

imitated and mocked Black culture. Minstrel shows often included dances that were stolen from Black communities, and the white performers who performed these dances often profited from their work while the original creators were denied credit or compensation.

The commodification of Black dance continued in the early 20th century, as white choreographers and dancers began to appropriate Black dance styles for their own work. For example, the famous choreographer George Balanchine borrowed heavily from African American dance traditions in his ballets, but he rarely credited the Black dancers who inspired his work.

#### **Gender Inequality in Dance**

In addition to facing racism, female dancers have also faced significant gender inequality in the dance world. Women have historically been underrepresented in leadership positions in dance companies and organizations, and they have often been paid less than their male counterparts. Women dancers have also been subjected to sexual harassment and abuse, and they have often been denied opportunities to perform certain roles because of their gender.

#### The Fight for Intellectual Property Rights

In recent years, Black and female dancers have begun to fight back against the injustices they have faced. They have formed organizations to advocate for their rights, and they have filed lawsuits to protect their intellectual property. These efforts have led to some progress, but there is still much work to be done.

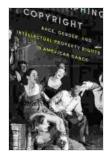
#### **Creating a More Just and Equitable Dance World**

The fight for racial and gender equality in dance is a complex one, but it is essential for creating a more just and equitable dance world. Dancers of all backgrounds deserve to be recognized and compensated for their creative work, and they deserve to have the opportunity to pursue their dreams without facing discrimination or abuse.

Here are some ways that we can all help to create a more just and equitable dance world:

- Educate ourselves about the history of racism and sexism in dance.
- Support Black and female dancers by attending their performances and donating to their organizations.
- Speak out against discrimination and abuse in the dance world.
- Support policies that protect the intellectual property rights of dancers.

By working together, we can create a dance world that is more just and equitable for all.



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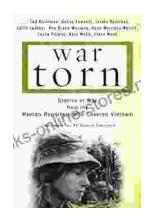
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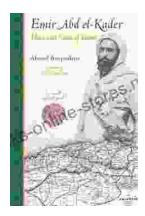
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