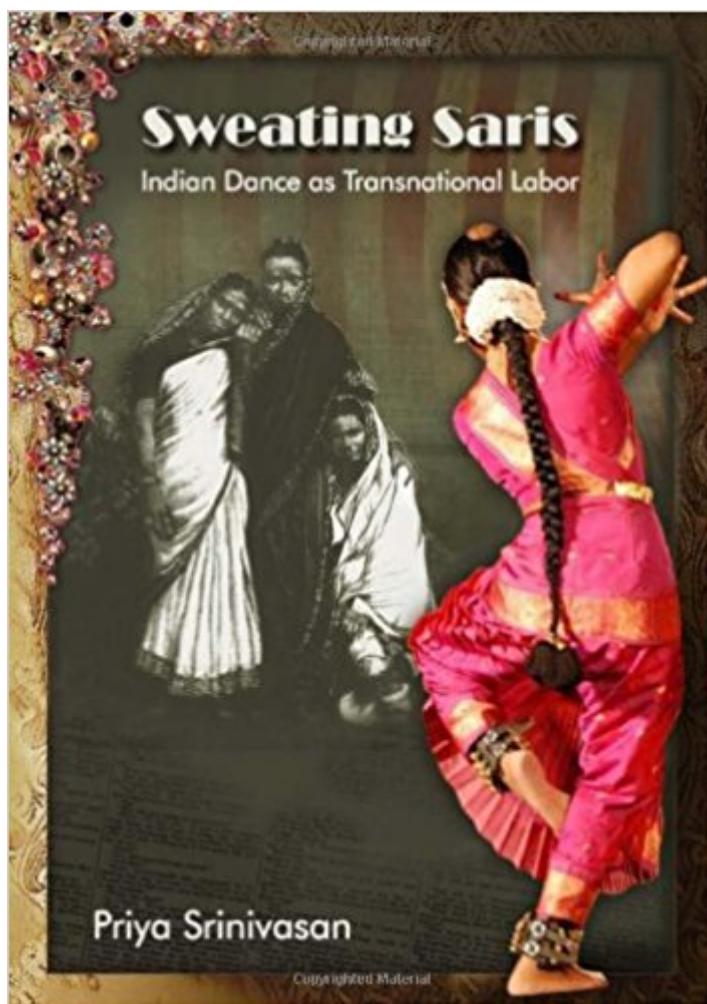


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# Sweating Saris: Indian Dance As Transnational Labor



## Synopsis

A groundbreaking book that seeks to understand dance as labor, *Sweating Saris* examines dancers not just as aesthetic bodies but as transnational migrant workers and wage earners who negotiate citizenship and gender issues. Srinivasan merges ethnography, history, critical race theory, performance and post-colonial studies among other disciplines to investigate the embodied experience of Indian dance. The dancers' sweat stained and soaked saris, the aching limbs are emblematic of global circulations of labor, bodies, capital, and industrial goods. Thus the sweating sari of the dancer stands in for her unrecognized labor. Srinivasan shifts away from the usual emphasis on Indian women dancers as culture bearers of the Indian nation. She asks us to reframe the movements of late nineteenth century transnational Nautch Indian dancers to the foremother of modern dance Ruth St. Denis in the early twentieth century to contemporary teenage dancers in Southern California, proposing a transformative theory of dance, gendered-labor, and citizenship that is far-reaching. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 236 pages

Publisher: Temple University Press (December 2, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1439904308

ISBN-13: 978-1439904305

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #504,075 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk #300 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies #41104 in Books > Humor & Entertainment

## Customer Reviews

"Sweating Saris takes us through the fascinating interconnections of labor, dance, and immigration. Beautifully researched and written, this book makes us think deeply about what dancing bodies mean and how they achieve their seeming perfection. Srinivasan's blending of archival research, ethnography, and first-person narration is a tour de force."-Josephine Lee, author of *Performing Asian America* and *The Japan of Pure Invention*

Priya Srinivasan is Associate Professor in Critical Dance Studies at the Department of Dance, University of California, Riverside.

Srinivasan takes on the transnational Indian dancing body to crack-open labor--specifically undocumented labor. Her archival work visibilizes people and their labor that was previously invisible. Srinivasan's archival work is brilliantly woven into her ethnographic analyses as a practitioner and as an observer of Indian dance. Read this! By far--this is the most brilliant piece of ethnographic work I have read this year! Enjoy!

Priya Srinivasan brilliantly traces the influence of Indian nautch girls and more on American modern dance and mines gems from archives dating back to the 1880. I have been raving about this to my academic colleagues --anyone who is interested in dance history, Indian diaspora, gender studies, performance arts (the list goes on!), will love this.

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