



Publisher's Review: Dance Therapy Collections Three.

Dunphy, K., Guthrie, J., and Loughlin, E. (eds). (2009).

Melbourne: Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australia. **206 pages**

Available from www.dtaa.org.au. \$48

This collection of articles by keynote speakers, Australian and overseas practitioners, developed out of presentations at the third Australian Dance Movement Therapy conference, 'Weaving The Threads', held in Melbourne in 2007. The volume includes 22 articles from Australian and international dance movement therapists and colleagues on a wide range of topics, from dance therapy's origins and directions, research and evaluation in dance movement therapy to therapeutic applications and skill development for therapists.

This publication demonstrates a maturity of attitude, substantiated through both evidence-based and phenomenological research. The editors elegantly shift the reader from the profession's history and the centrality of movement observation, to surveying both local and global trends within research and evaluation of praxis, and on to wide ranging applications and examples.

The majority of the authors have multiple professional skills that they combine in the service of the client. These include: physiotherapy, social work, psychology, midwifery, choreography, writing and performing, Egyptian dance, yoga. The client groups presented are also interestingly varied including people who experience: postnatal depression; trauma, anxiety, eating disorders, war trauma, normal neurosis, birth, attachment issues, terminal cancer, generational isolation, and a search for self development. Description of such a range of clinical expertise and reflection is certainly helpful for other dance movement therapists from other countries with similar client groups.

I recommended (this book) it to my supervisees in the UK, Japan, and South America and to students in Netherlands, Croatia and Poland, hence the dissemination of Australian practice is well under way within Europe and beyond.

The field needs more publications such as Dance Therapy Collections 3. As well as pondering essential professional queries, this basket of goodies is woven through with a golden thread of the spirit and power of dance.

Penelope Best, *Moving On*, DTAA, Vol 9, Nos. 3 and 4, 2011

Book review: *Evaluating the woven tapestry of Australian dance movement therapy*