

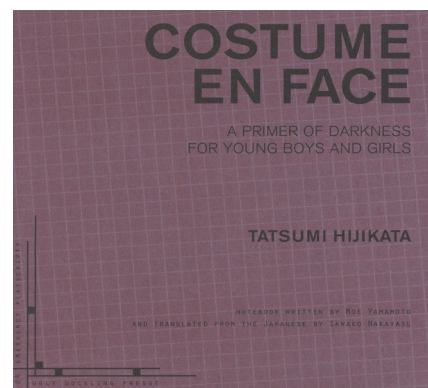
Tatsumi Hijikata

Costume en Face: *A Primer of Darkness for Young Boys and Girls*

Though the late Tatsumi Hijikata is a legendary figure in the history of art and contemporary dance, most of the familiarity with his Butoh works comes through secondary writings of critics and scholars. This Japanese/English bilingual edition of *Costume en Face* is the first-ever publication of Hijikata's own notations for one of his dance works.

Originally staged in 1976, the notation for *Costume en Face* was developed by Hijikata and transcribed by hand by lead performer Moe Yamamoto. Translated by award-winning poet and translator Sawako Nakayasu, Hijikata's vivid language marks out the imagery that is the core of the dance. The original markings, sketches and erasures of the notebook are retained in the book design, creating an evocative choreography on the page. Here we can see, for the first time, the profound interconnectedness of language and body in Hijikata's process of composition.

Costume en Face is the fourth book in Ugly Duckling Presse's Emergency Playscripts series, a project dedicated to publishing primary performance texts that foreground strategies of notation.



Trade Paperback
Dance/Performance | \$17 | £11
8" x 8" | 144 pp

Emergency Playscripts #4
ISBN 978-1-937027-53-7
Small Press Distribution | InPress (UK)

Release Date: April 1, 2015

// Hijikata's language implies meanings and feelings that logical language cannot convey. His words are fingers between which sand slips.

— KURIHARA NANAOKO, *THE DRAMA REVIEW*



Tatsumi Hijikata was born in Japan in 1928. He founded the radical dance form known as Butoh, which requires dancers to internalize complex and often grotesque images, experiences and perspectives in order to produce precise movements. Even after his abrupt death in 1986, his dance works and writings continue to be extremely influential.

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