



14 October 2014

Society of Dance History Scholars Annual Awards 2014

Special Citation from the de la TORRE BUENO PRIZE Committee

Paul A. Scolieri

Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest
University of Texas Press

Paul Scolieri's beautifully illustrated *Dancing the New World* is breathtaking in its intellectual breadth and depth. The book examines the ways in which dance and power were mutually imbricated in a signal moment of modern history - the European colonization of the Americas. Scolieri's scholarship is rigorous and detailed, but his analyses are particularly compelling because of the theoretical questions he brings to bear on previously under-examined materials. Dance historians always need to grapple with the problem of limited archival sources. Scolieri manages to turn a particularly problematic research site - an archive devastated by the processes of colonization itself - to his advantage, making it an occasion for reflecting on the complexities of all attempts to describe, document and contain dance. For this reason, the book adds significantly not only to "New World" scholarship, but also to theoretical debates in dance history.

SDHS was organized in 1978 as a professional network and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1983. The society now counts among its members, individuals and institutions across the globe committed to the interdiscipline of dance studies. SDHS was admitted to the American Council of Learned Societies as a constituent member in 1996 and is committed to the advancement of the field of dance studies through research, publication, performance, and outreach to audiences across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. SDHS holds wide-ranging annual conferences, publishes new scholarship through its proceedings and book series, collaborates regularly with peer organizations in the U.S. and abroad, and presents yearly awards for exemplary scholarship, including The de la Torre Bueno Prize.

For more information, please contact info@sdhs.org or call 205.978.1404.

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