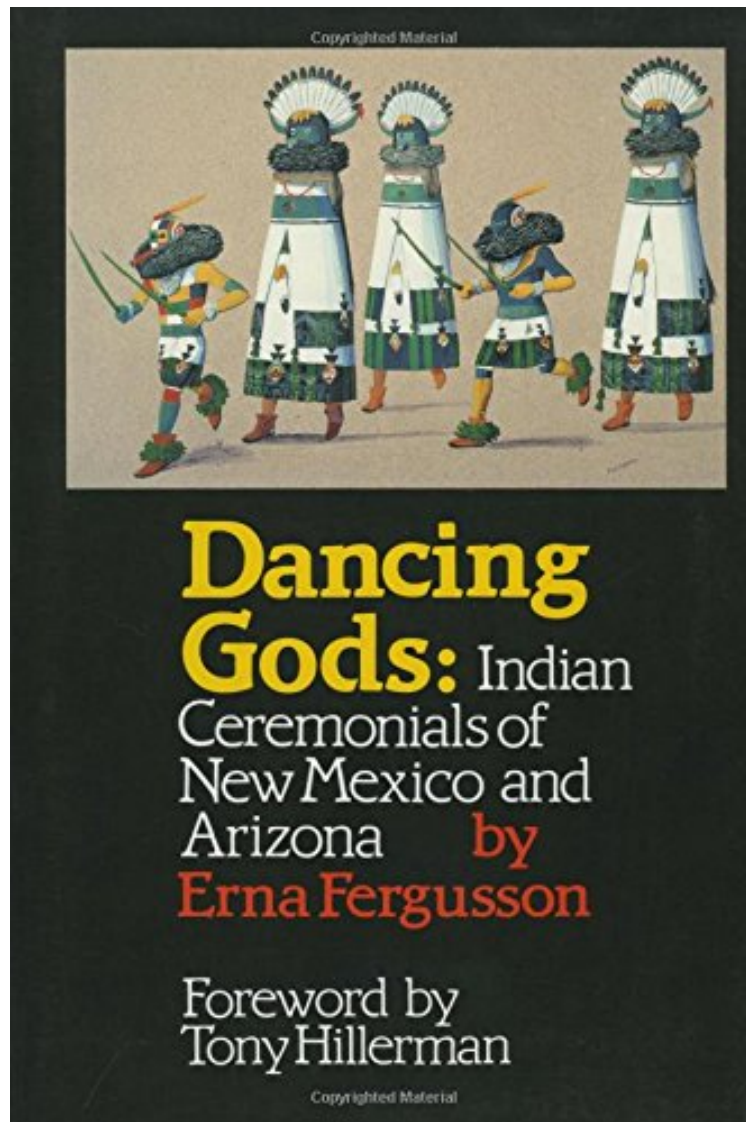


(Ebook pdf) Dancing Gods: Indian Ceremonials of New Mexico and Arizona

# Dancing Gods: Indian Ceremonials of New Mexico and Arizona

*Erna Fergusson*

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**Erna Fergusson : Dancing Gods: Indian Ceremonials of New Mexico and Arizona** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing Gods: Indian Ceremonials of New Mexico and Arizona:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EXCELLENT DESCRIPTIVE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS !!By jorma"Dancing Gods" is a wonderful descriptive account of SW American Indian ceremonies dance. The cover illustration is of the Zuni Shalako dance, by Fred Kabotie. These are eyewitness observations as the ceremonies occurred before 1931. Histories Religions of the SW First Nations Peoples are documented here as well, and all are

told in a highly descriptive and detailed manner. The language is dated, as well as some of the terms used, but this is an important volume as you can surely get the feel of the time. Included are 13 B W illustrations of the ceremonies dances by Native artists. This volume has a melancholy feel, as Traditional ways were already being lost, and the "benefits" of progress can be felt. Even in the author's time, some of the ceremonies that were open, are being, or are closed to the public. I understand and respect this, but the feeling of loss, and sadness are still there, as something Sacred beautiful has been misunderstood, and a chance to witness something sublime magical has escaped us. That is what truly makes this an important piece of history, an important lesson to grasp learn, and not make the same mistakes, even as they are being perpetrated today. We ARE all related, may your path be beautiful for you, Peace !

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tony Hillerman RecommendedBy faultslipVery good. One edition that I read has a forward by Tony Hillerman. The only negative is occasional language which, by today's standards, sounds racist and paternalistic. Those problems, though, are balanced by the obvious respect with which Fergusson treats her subject. After reading and rereading this book, I am envious of the author's opportunity to see these ceremonies

One of the most remarkable features of life in the Southwest is the presence of Native American religious ceremonies in communities that are driving distance from Sunbelt cities. Many of these ceremonies are open to the public and *Dancing Gods* is the best single reference for visitors to dances at the Rio Grande Pueblos, Zuni Pueblo, the Hopi Mesas, and the Navajo and Apache reservations. Fergusson's classic guide to New Mexico and Arizona Indian ceremonies is once again available in print. It offers background information on the history and religion of the area's Native American peoples and describes the principal public ceremonies and some lesser-known dances that are rarely performed. Here is information on the major Pueblo rituals--the Corn Dance, Deer Dance, and Eagle Dance--as well as various dances at Zuni, including the complicated Shalako. Fergusson also describes the Hopi bean-planting and Niman Kachina ceremonies in addition to the Snake Dance, the Navajo Mountain Chant and Night Chant, and several Apache ceremonies. "Still the best of all books about the Indian ceremonials of New Mexico and Arizona. . . .perceptive and simple, reverent and lucid."--Lawrence Clark Powell, *Southwest Classics*

"A clear, sympathetic, and informed introduction to these people and their ceremonies . . . should give every new onlooker a deeper appreciation of the dance which is really a prayer."From the PublisherThe reprint of this classic will be available in September 2001.From the Inside FlapThe best single reference for visitors to dances at the Rio Grande Pueblos, Zuni Pueblo, the Hopi Mesas, and the Navajo and Apache reservations.