



PHIL HOLLAND is an English teacher, voice actor, and translator. He has taught at Dartmouth, Cornell, Bennington, and Anatolia College in Greece. He was a contributor to *World Poetry* (Norton, 1998) and publishes light verse on YouTube.



MOSES PENDLETON is one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers. He is Artistic Director of Momix and was a founder of Pilobolus. He has worked extensively in opera, ballet, film, TV and special events both in the U.S. and abroad. His photographs have been the subject of exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe.



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The dance must follow Phil Holland | Moses Pendleton



# The dance must follow

## Sixteen cantos and an epilogue

Phil Holland with photographs by Moses Pendleton

Moses Pendleton is asked to write a note for the program of a performance he is putting on for a local school: "Explain where your dances come from and how you make them, Moses." He sits down at his kitchen table and fills a page with poetry, referring to himself as "the dancer" and describing the start of his day. Some lines rhyme, some are only phrases or images. The page resembles a plume of smoke.

The deadline is imminent. Moses asks friend and sometime collaborator Phil Holland for help in polishing his lines. Twenty-seven years later, Holland completes his work. The poem now runs to 16 cantos and an epilogue, written at intervals through the years, often on the basis of Moses' long-distance accounts of his life, a life centered on the Victorian summerhouse and its gardens in rural Connecticut where Moses and his company Momix work year-round. The result is an intimate portrait of one of America's most original choreographers and artistic personalities – and surely one of its most obsessive gardeners.

Not long after he sketches his poem, Moses takes up photography, turning the camera on his house, his sunflowers, and himself, and eventually exhibits his work internationally in galleries and theaters. A selection of his photographs, together with some taken by the visiting poet and by Momix photographer Max Pucciarello, illustrate the book.