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APOLLO'S ANGELS



A
HISTORY
OF
BALLET
—

JENNIFER
HOMANS

'A magisterial waltz through four
centuries of classical dance'
SUNDAY TIMES



Jennifer Homans

APOLLO'S ANGELS

A HISTORY OF BALLET

Apollos Angels A History Of Ballet

Jennifer Homans



Apollo's Angels A History Of Ballet:

Apollo's Angels Jennifer Homans, 2010-11-02 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW LOS ANGELES TIMES SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY For more than four hundred years the art of ballet has stood at the center of Western civilization Its traditions serve as a record of our past Lavishly illustrated and beautifully told Apollo's Angels the first cultural history of ballet ever written is a groundbreaking work From ballet's origins in the Renaissance and the codification of its basic steps and positions under France's Louis XIV himself an avid dancer the art form wound its way through the courts of Europe from Paris and Milan to Vienna and St Petersburg In the twentieth century migr dancers taught their art to a generation in the United States and in Western Europe setting off a new and radical transformation of dance Jennifer Homans a historian critic and former professional ballerina wields a knowledge of dance born of dedicated practice Her admiration and love for the ballet as Entertainment Weekly notes brings a dancer's grace and sure footed agility to the page Apollo's Angels Jennifer Homans, 2010-11 **Mr. B** Jennifer Homans, 2023-11-07 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST A fascinating read about a true genius and his unrelenting thirst for beauty in art and in life MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV Winner of the Plutarch Award for Best Biography and the Marfield Prize for Arts Writing Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award the Los Angeles Times Book Prize the PEN Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award the Kirkus Prize and the Baillie Gifford Prize Based on a decade of unprecedented research the first major biography of George Balanchine a broad canvas portrait set against the backdrop of the tumultuous century that shaped the man The New York Times called the Shakespeare of dancing from the bestselling author of Apollo's Angels New York Times Editors Choice ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR The New York Times Book Review The New Yorker Vanity Fair NPR Oprah Daily Arguably the greatest choreographer who ever lived George Balanchine was one of the cultural titans of the twentieth century The New York Times called him the Shakespeare of dancing His radical approach to choreography and life reinvented the art of ballet and made him a legend Written with enormous style and artistry and based on more than one hundred interviews and research in archives across Russia Europe and the Americas Mr B carries us through Balanchine's tumultuous and high pitched life story and into the making of his extraordinary dances Balanchine's life intersected with some of the biggest historical events of his century Born in Russia under the last czar Balanchine experienced the upheavals of World War I the Russian Revolution exile World War II and the Cold War A co founder of the New York City Ballet he pressed ballet in America to the forefront of modernism and made it a popular art None of this was easy and we see his loneliness and failures his five marriages all to dancers and many loves We follow his bouts of ill health and spiritual crises and learn of his profound musical skills and sensibility and his immense determination to make some of the most glorious strange and beautiful dances ever to grace the modern stage With full access to Balanchine's papers and many of his dancers Jennifer Homans the dance critic for The New Yorker and a former

dancer herself has spent more than a decade researching Balanchine's life and times to write a vast history of the twentieth century through the lens of one of its greatest artists the definitive biography of the man his dancers called Mr B

Revolutionary Bodies Emily Wilcox, 2018-10-23 At publication date a free ebook version of this title will be available through Luminos University of California Press's Open Access publishing program Visit www.luminosoa.org to learn more *Revolutionary Bodies* is the first English language primary source based history of concert dance in the People's Republic of China Combining over a decade of ethnographic and archival research Emily Wilcox analyzes major dance works by Chinese choreographers staged over an eighty year period from 1935 to 2015 Using previously unexamined film footage photographic documentation performance programs and other historical and contemporary sources Wilcox challenges the commonly accepted view that Soviet inspired revolutionary ballets are the primary legacy of the socialist era in China's dance field The digital edition of this title includes nineteen embedded videos of selected dance works discussed by the author **Ballerina**

Deirdre Kelly, 2012-09-07 Throughout her history the ballerina has been perceived as the embodiment of beauty and perfection the feminine ideal But the reality is another story From the earliest ballerinas in the 17th century who often led double lives as concubines through the poverty of the corps de ballet dancers in the 1800s and the anorexic and bulimic ballerinas of George Balanchine starvation and exploitation have plagued ballerinas throughout history Using the stories of great dancers such as Anna Pavlova Isadora Duncan Suzanne Farrell Gelsey Kirkland and Evelyn Hart Deirdre Kelly exposes the true rigors for women in ballet She rounds her critique with examples of how the world of ballet is slowly evolving for the better But to ensure that this most graceful of dance forms survives into the future she says that the time has come to rethink ballet to position the ballerina at its center and accord her the respect she deserves **So, You Want to Be a Dancer?**

Laurel van der Linde, 2015-04-07 From ballet and contemporary to hip hop and even Broadway this book reveals what it really takes to build a career in dance today **Wilde Times** Joel Lobenthal, 2016-06-07 The authorized biography of one of the greatest dancers from the golden age of New York City Ballet **Choreographing Discourses** Mark

Franko, 2018-12-07 *Choreographing Discourses* brings together essays originally published by Mark Franko between 1996 and the contemporary moment Assembling these essays from international sometimes untranslated sources and curating their relationship to a rapidly changing field this Reader offers an important resource in the dynamic scholarly fields of Dance and Performance Studies What makes this volume especially appropriate for undergraduate and graduate teaching is its critical focus on twentieth and twenty first century dance artists and choreographers among these Oskar Schlemmer Merce Cunningham Kazuo Ohno William Forsythe Bill T Jones and Pina Bausch some of the most high profile European American and Japanese artists of the past century The volume's constellation of topics delves into controversies that are essential turning points in the field notably *Still Here* and *Paris is Burning* which illuminate the spine of the field while interlinking dance scholarship with performance theory film visual and public art The volume contains the first critical

assessments of Franko's contribution to the field by Andr Lepecki and Gay Morris and an interview incorporating a biographical dimension to the development of Franko's work and its relation to his dance and choreography Ultimately this Reader encourages a wide scope of conversation and engagement opening up core questions in ethics embodiment and performativity

Modernism after the Ballets Russes Gabriela Minden, 2025-07-14 Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes holds a renowned position in the history of modernism across various arts The company's daring productions brought together leading artists working in diverse fields from Igor Stravinsky to Pablo Picasso from Bronislava Nijinska to Coco Chanel redefining the possibilities of artistic collaboration and shaping the trajectories of dance music fashion and the visual arts But what of the Ballets Russes's role in the text-based theatre Despite the intrinsic link between dance and theatre as performance arts the company's contributions to dramatic literature and dramaturgy have remained surprisingly elusive This book establishes the Ballets Russes as a powerful force in the development of modernist theatre in Britain revealing how the company's avant-garde repertoire inspired the creation of new composition strategies and performance techniques that privileged the immediacy of expression offered by the moving dancing body Modernism after the Ballets Russes examines the philosophical conditions of early twentieth-century Britain's theatrical landscape marked by growing interest in Nietzschean interpretations of classical drama and Wagnerian notions of the Gesamtkunstwerk to illuminate the allure of the Ballets Russes's re-centring of dance as the foundation of theatre art It shows that Diaghilev's ballets provided new ways of thinking about the relationship between the literary and embodied aspects of dramatic performance fueling collaborations between eminent dramatists and theatre practitioners Harley Granville Barker J M Barrie Terence Gray and W H Auden and lesser-known choreographers Cecil Sharp Tamara Karsavina Ninette de Valois and Rupert Doone Through the prism of the Ballets Russes this group of artists crafted distinctive new theatrical forms including a whimsical terpsichorean fantasia and a politically subversive poetic dramatic satire as well as new methods of staging Shakespearean comedy and Attic tragedy Together this book contends these literary and dramaturgical innovations represent a previously neglected strand of modernism one that saw the dramatic power of the moving body expand the expressive resources of the period's theatrical arts

All Day Long Joanna Biggs, 2015-04-09 Nearly all of us have to work but how much do we really know about what other people do all day What is it like to be a fishmonger a sex worker or an Orthodox rabbi Or a banker a research scientist or a carer How do our jobs affect our lives beliefs and happiness And what happens when we don't work Joanna Biggs has travelled the country to find the answers talking to interns and bosses professionals and entrepreneurs thinkers and doers She takes us from Westminster to the Outer Hebrides from a hospital in Wales to the industrial Midlands introducing us to different worlds of work and the people who inhabit them Rich with the voices of the wealthy and poor native and immigrant women and men of the UK in the twenty-first century All Day Long shows us who we are through what we do

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