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Massine: A Biography



Synopsis

With 69 photographs in text

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An intimate look (although admittedly a bit biased, as the writer was an admirer of Leonide Massine) at a man who was a premier male dancer and chief choreographer of European ballet from 1914 through 1939. Historian Vicente Garcia-Marquez helps to ensure that Massine is recognized for his role in 20th century ballet history, as a dancer who collaborated with other prominent figures such as Diaghilev, Stravinsky, Falla, Cocteau, Picasso, Matisse, Miro and Dali...among others. High points of the book include vintage photos and passages such as these, where Massine, while dancing, gives insight into the creative process of ballet: "I felt instinctively that something more than perfect technique was needed here, but it was not until I had worked myself up into a frenzy that I was able to transcend my usual limitations. I felt an almost electrical interaction between myself and the spectators....until I was dancing with a sustained force that seemed far beyond my reach at other times."

This biography was published as a first edition in 1995. I received the book promptly and in mint condition. Massine was arguably the most important choreographer in ballet in the 20th century. He was affiliated with the legendary Ballet Russes De Monte Carlo. His Gaité Parisienne is on YouTube. The biography carefully traces his life from birth, early childhood, through his amazing career

as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. Illustrations are adequate, sources are numerous, there are extensive notes, a good bibliography and good index. The author interviewed a great number of people who knew Massine. I can only praise this wonderful book, similarly the distributor for .

good bio but I wish more bios on Massine is done.

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