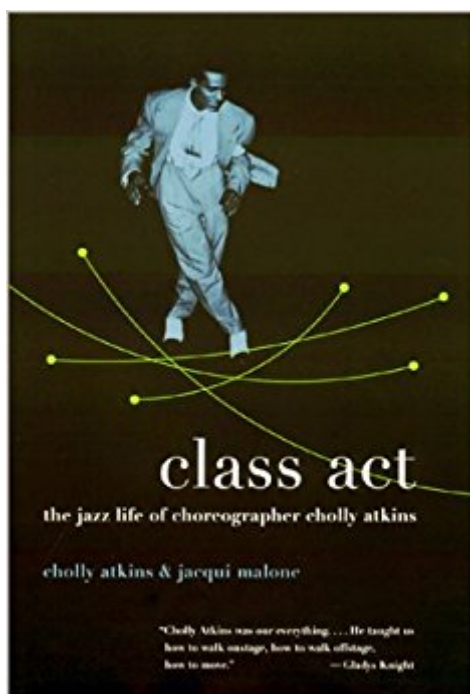


The book was found

# Class Act



## Synopsis

Cholly Atkins's career has spanned an extraordinary era of American dance. He began performing during Prohibition and continued his apprenticeship in vaudeville, in nightclubs, and in the army during World War II. With his partner, Honi Coles, Cholly toured the country, performing with such jazz masters as Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, and Count Basie. As tap reached a nadir in the fifties, Cholly created the new specialization of "vocal choreography," teaching rhythm-and-blues singers how to perform their music by adding rhythmical dance steps drawn from twentieth-century American dance, from the Charleston to rhythm tap. For the burgeoning Motown record label, Cholly taught such artists as the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, the Temptations, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and Marvin Gaye to command the stage in ways that would enhance their performances and "sell" their songs. *Class Act* tells of Cholly's boyhood and coming of age, his entry into the dance world of New York City, his performing triumphs and personal tragedies, and the career transformations that won him gold records and a Tony for choreographing *Black and Blue* on Broadway. Chronicling the rise, near demise, and rediscovery of tap dancing, the book is both an engaging biography and a rich cultural history.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 280 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (August 15, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231123647

ISBN-13: 978-0231123648

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.4 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,709,212 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Jazz](#) #271 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music >](#)

[Musical Genres > Dance](#) #516 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Dancers](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a great read from start to finish. The life of Cholly Atkins, a surprisingly unsung pioneer who should be a legend in his own time. It relieves readers of their ignorance about the many ways his influence has been in their lives all along, and how much they have to thank him for regarding many features of American popular dance culture that are traced right back to his doorstep. Great inside

stories about many American music and dance icons. The only thing missing in having the entire book written in his (very colorful and endearing) voice is hearing more quotes and tales others might have to tell about what it was/is like to work under him, with him, and to be taught by him. Room for a sequel? Well and thoroughly researched by the co-author. Warm and genuine. There is something here for anyone with a pulse.

This is a great read from start to finish. The life of Cholly Atkins, a surprisingly unsung pioneer who should be a legend in his own time. It relieves readers of their ignorance about the many ways his influence has been in their lives all along, and how much they have to thank him for regarding many features of American popular dance culture that are traced right back to his doorstep. Great inside stories about many American music and dance icons. The only thing missing in having the entire book written in his (very colorful and endearing) voice is hearing more quotes and tales others might have to tell about what it was/is like to work under him, with him, and to be taught by him. Room for a sequel? Well and thoroughly researched by the co-author. Warm and genuine. There is something here for anyone with a pulse.

I loved this book on Mr. Atkins. Here is one of my favorite excerpts from him: "I had an authentic jazz background. What I mean by 'authentic jazz' is what they basically now call street dancing - things that black neighborhoods came up with. We've been doing those moves for thousands of years. Tap dancers basically use portions of authentic jazz dance so they'll look good as well as sound good. I am talking about dances like the Suzie Q, Charleston, and the Black Bottom; things that created excitement as soon as we came up with them. Now, right away there were adaptations of these dances and they were claimed by other people and presented in places where we weren't permitted to go. But we all know where they came from. A lot of the moves that the young kids are doing now are very familiar. They have a different beat and all that, but you look closely and you see steps there from African traditional dances." I was prompted to read more about Cholly Atkins after reading Jacqui Malone's *Steppin' on the Blues*, in which she dedicates a chapter to him. The book was an enjoyable read, and I learned more about Mr. Atkins and people that touched his life, especially his tap partner and life long friend, Honi Coles. I was also touched by his revelations of some very painful events in his life. I had always been vaguely aware of how important Mr. Atkins was to the development of Motown artist. But I knew nothing of his life before Motown. He was at least 50 when he became a part of their team. But most of his life he was a rhythm tap dancer. What struck me is when he said the best and most innovative tap dancer since his time is Savion Glover.

Now when the master says something like that, I must take note. He says Savion is an innovator. He added a branch to an ancient tree. He has taken tap further alone and has created some complex taps. I just love those old school artists. I just have a thing for classy, well dressed men and women. The Motown machine continued the tradition of class with their performers. Thank goodness my knowledge of him is no longer vague. I want to thank Ms. Malone for introducing me to Cholly Atkins properly.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

ACT Exam Secrets Study Guide: ACT Test Review for the ACT Test ACT Exam Flashcard Study System: ACT Test Practice Questions & Review for the ACT Test (Cards) ACT Exam Practice Questions: ACT Practice Tests & Review for the ACT Test ACT Prep Black Book: The Most Effective ACT Strategies Ever Published Barron's ACT Math and Science Workbook, 2nd Edition (Barron's Act Math & Science Workbook) Kaplan ACT Strategies for Super Busy Students: 15 Simple Steps to Tackle the ACT While Keeping Your Life Together (Kaplan Test Prep) Barron's ACT (Barron's Act (Book Only)) ACT Prep Book 2016 Study Guide: Test Prep & Practice Test Questions for the ACT Exam The Real ACT (CD) 3rd Edition (Official Act Prep Guide) SAT and ACT Grammar Workbook (Grammar Workbook for the Sat, Act and More) The Real ACT Prep Guide (Book + Bonus Online Content), (Reprint) (Official Act Prep Guide) The Real ACT Prep Guide: The Only Guide to Include 3Real ACT Tests Math for the ACT 2nd Ed., Bob Miller's (SAT PSAT ACT (College Admission) Prep) Mighty Oak Guide to Mastering the 2016 ACT Essay: For the new (2016-) 36-point ACT essay ACT Prep Book 2016 by Accepted Inc.: ACT Test Prep Study Guide and Practice Questions How to Write a New Killer ACT Essay: An Award-Winning Author's Practical Writing Tips on ACT Essay Prep The Real ACT, 3rd Edition (Real ACT Prep Guide) Barron's ACT, 2nd Edition (Barron's Act (Book Only)) McGraw-Hill Education 10 ACT Practice Tests, Fourth Edition (Mcgraw-Hill's 10 Act Practice Tests) 320 ACT Math Problems arranged by Topic and Difficulty Level, 2nd Edition: 160 ACT Questions with Solutions, 160 Additional Questions with Answers

[Dmca](#)