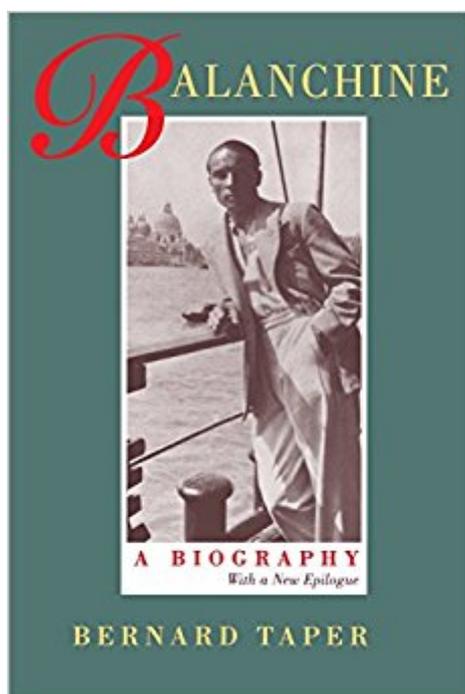


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Balanchine: A Biography: With A New Epilogue



Synopsis

Written with wit, insight, and candor, *Balanchine* is a book that will delight lovers of biography as well as those with a special interest in dance. For this edition the author has added a thoughtful yet dramatic account of the working out of Balanchine's legacy, from the making of his controversial will to the present day. The author explores the intriguing legal, financial, and institutional subplots that unfolded after the death of the greatest choreographer of the century, but the central plot of his epilogue is the aesthetic issue: In the absence of their creator, can the ballets retain their wondrous vitality? Taper illuminates the fascinating transmission of Balanchine's masterworks from one generation to another, an unprecedented legacy in the history of ballet, that most evanescent of the arts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is no easy, inspirational biography. It really goes in depth. But you finish thinking you understand this enigmatic man about as well as possible. If you like or are curious about Balanchine, READ THIS BOOK!

This is a very well-written scholarly treatise on the life of George Balanchine. The author has done thorough research on this brilliant choreographer. It is a detailed, informative biography and you will know Mr. B quite well once you are finished with this book. One thing I noticed is that the author did not write much about Mr. B's relationship with Suzanne Farrell. I don't know if this was an oversight or if Mr. Taper did not like Ms. Farrell; he wrote extensively about the other muses, so I get the

feeling he did not like Ms. Farrell. Though no fault of her own, Mr. B had put her in a precarious position within the NYCB company. She loved him and respected him deeply, but was not in love with him. People who knew Mr. B consider Suzanne as Balanchine's greatest muse, so to gloss over her like this author did was a big oversight IMHO. She was as much a part of his history as his other muses, even more so, because she was his last greatest muse and inspired many ballets. The book can be a bit dry at times, but this book is more for college reading and is invaluable for anybody studying the history of dance or of Mr. B. I recommend it highly, but it is not a fast read. But you'll come away with knowing a lot more about the genius that was Mr. B.

I've so happy I bought this book, it's a pleasure to read. I'm a long time ballet fan, but I would strongly recommend this book for anyone who is interested about ballet, you can learn so much reading it!

Very informative biography of a unique dancer/choreography/person, with interesting facts about NYC Ballet's history and the dilemmas lingering after Balanchine's death.

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