



Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet

By Robert Geskovic

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(Limelight). Veteran dance writer Robert Geskovic's comprehensive handbook on how to watch and appreciate the ballet is now available in this new edition. It includes a complete analysis of sixteen important and popular ballets, from Swan Lake to Twyla Tharp's Push Comes To Shove . As Mikhail Baryshnikov states in the book's foreword: "All the things that ballet fans talk about at intermission, while newcomers stand there wondering what they mean: those things are here...(Robert Geskovic) has been thinking about ballet --- watching it, reading, writing, and talking about it --- day after day for more than thirty years. He knows it through and through. Now he shares his knowledge."

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Robert Greskovic's enthusiasm for ballet is infectious. The combination of ideal bodies moving into wondrous shapes, beautiful music, and often fantastic sets and costumes makes it, in his opinion, a near perfect art form. Still, many art lovers who regularly visit museums and galleries and think nothing of an evening at the opera or theater practically panic at the thought of sitting through a ballet. *Ballet 101* should ease those people's fears. Greskovic starts off with a lively but solid history of ballet, then covers the training of a dancer. These two elements alone offer an excellent foundation for understanding what's going on on-stage. The book also includes clear information about the logistics of a performance--from the conductor's arrival in the orchestra pit to the final curtain call, no pique, glissade, or arabesque is left unexplained. After covering these basics, Greskovic examines 14 ballets in great detail--most are classics like *Les Sylphides*, but a number of modern treasures like Balanchine's *Apollo* are also covered. For readers yearning to take in more dance than their local ballet company offers in a season, the book includes an extensive videography as well as excellent suggestions for further reading. The tone of *Ballet 101* is serious without being dry and informative without being condescending--a great find for anyone anxious to learn more about this often under-appreciated art form.

From Publishers Weekly

"There are no rules to making your way through the world of ballet," writes Greskovic in his valuable introduction to the form. There may be no rules, but a little guidance is a good thing, and Greskovic makes a fine Virgil to a hapless Dante. A dance teacher and critic, Greskovic goes far beyond the bluffers' guides that have come before. He begins with a sketch of ballet's historical roots in the courts of Europe, highlighting key characters and influences, partnerships and rivalries, and thereby shows the crucial influence of earlier people and practices on current performance. This sets the stage for an overview of the roles traditionally played by men and women, the various stages a ballet goes through before the performance and an explanation of how to view the structures of the dance and recognize standard movements and positions. Armed with the fundamentals, the reader can see that "ballet is an art of standards and traditions that need room to grow but not license to alter arbitrarily." In the final third of the book, he takes the reader on a guided tour of a dozen of ballet's most popular and significant works, recommending available videos for the critical visual and aural experience. In very straightforward, engaging prose bolstered always by research and understanding, Greskovic demystifies what can seem?especially if you listen to its more jealous adherents?to be an esoteric art form.

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Review

"Robert Greskovic's *Ballet 101* is . . . extremely useful as a guide to numerous aspects of classical dance." --
Robert Gottlieb, Allure magazine, March 2006

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Caceres:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family

members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Elaine Moore:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written inside good manner for you, dripping every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet as good book but not only by the cover but also by content. This is one e-book that can break don't ascertain book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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Kimberly Hogan:

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