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Stravinsky And Balanchine: A Journey Of Invention



Synopsis

Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine, among the most influential artists of the 20th century, together created the music and movement for many ballet masterpieces. This is a study of one of the greatest artistic collaborations in history. Drawing on extensive research, Charles Joseph discusses the Stravinsky-Balanchine ballets against a rich contextual backdrop. He explores the background and psychology of the two men, the dynamics of their interactions, their personal and professional similarities and differences, and the political and historical circumstances that conditioned their work. He describes the dancers, designers and sponsors with whom they worked. He explains the two men's approach to the creative process and the genesis of each of the collaborative ballets, demolishing much received wisdom on the subject. He also analyzes selected sections of music and dance, providing examples of Stravinsky's working sketches and other illustrative materials.

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If you were (in a word) "stunned" by the work "Apollo" by George Balanchine, or works like "Agon", you will want to own and cherish this masterpiece of a book. This is ballet as literature. Mr. Balanchine elevated ballet to the level of literature. The author dug deeply and with sincere devotion to the work that Mr. Balanchine and Mr. Stravinsky produced during their collaborations, and it is loaded with treasures that I cannot even go into here because there are too many. You may at first be put-off by the price, but I must say that once you have the book open and in your hands and are

skimming-through the knowledge accumulated by this generous scholar who has provided us all with materials we would never had access to otherwise you will see that each and every penny you spent on this tome will have been well spent. The book can be read in a light manner once through, or you can carry it around with you and live with it (as I have done) having it by your bedside, while watching and studying the works on video & DVD, and/or while listening to Mr. Stravinsky's compositions. When I was a dancer during the last part of Mr. Balanchine's working life I would have given blood to have had my hands on this book. I had to rely mostly on oral-tradition of transmission of knowledge within the dance and theatre community of artists to gain only a molecule of what is related in this book for you by the author. And if you enjoyed this book you will also enjoy the DVD I have inserted as a product link here.

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