

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

By Robert Greskovic

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(Limelight). Veteran dance writer Robert Greskovic'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 Greskovic) 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:

Jean Young:

Often the book Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet will bring you to definitely

the new experience of reading a book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book Ballet 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving the Ballet is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Lawanda Beverly:

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Edwina Hinkle:

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