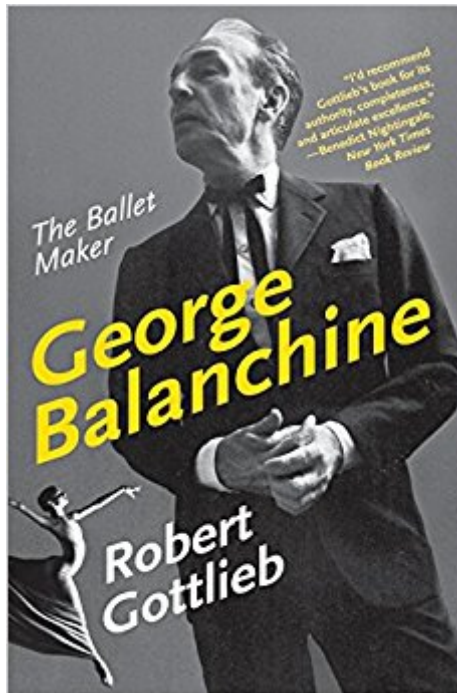




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George Balanchine: The Ballet Maker (Eminent Lives)



Synopsis

Written by the gifted author, editor, and dance critic Robert Gottlieb, George Balanchine describes the life and art of the celebrated, revolutionary ballet choreographer. Here is a necessary and singular look at the life of one of the great figures of the 20th Century: the dynamic Balanchine, founder of The New York City Ballet, collaborator of Stravinsky, and inspiration to countless fans over the course of his long and storied career. George Balanchine is another engaging entry in the HarperCollins's "Eminent Lives" series of biographies by distinguished authors on canonical figures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The foremost contemporary choreographer in the history of ballet, George Balanchine extended the art form into radical new paths that came to seem inevitable under his direction. He transformed movement and dance in classical and modern ballet, on the Broadway stage, and in the cinema. George Balanchine chronicles the life and achievements of this visionary artist from his early, almost accidental career in Russia, where his lifelong collaboration with Igor Stravinsky was forged, to his extraordinary accomplishments in America. The editor and writer Robert Gottlieb, one of the most knowledgeable dance critics in America, offers a superb and loving portrait of a genius who, though married many times to many ballerinas, remained truest to his greatest love, Terpsichore, the Greek Muse of dance.

The former editor in chief of Simon & Schuster, Alfred A. Knopf, and The New Yorker, Robert Gottlieb was on the board of directors of the New York City Ballet for many years. He writes literary criticism for the New York Review of Books, the New York Times Book Review, and The New Yorker, and is the dance critic for the New York Observer.

a great follow up book to Balanchine and the Lost Muse. It picks up almost precisely where the other book ends, just as Balanchine is getting ready to launch his fabulous career.

Great history of a ballet king

It is really a much better book than I first thought so I am changing my stars to 5!

Beautifully written with facts woven into a fascinating life story. A great introduction to the man George Balanchine and his admirable work.

Excellent work. Author is highly knowledgeable and a skilled writer.

This book is not just for ballet fans! I am a lifelong lover of the ballet and I was an aspiring dancer at one point in my life but even if I hadn't been, THE BALLET MAKER would still have been a great read. So much of Balanchine's life has become part of our collective knowledge. We've all seen some version of THE NUTCRACKER at Christmas; most of us recognize names like Nureyev, Villella and Farrell; Lincoln Center is a part of the national vocabulary; and Balanchine himself is a recognizable figure to most people. THE BALLET MAKER provides the backdrop for the enormous impact that Balanchine had on dance, in exciting cities in Europe but especially in the United States. I like the fact that the focus of the book is on the people who are involved in this art form. It is through their eyes that we learn so much about the somewhat closed, but infinitely interesting, world of professional ballet.

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