

[PDF] Apollo's Angels: A History Of Ballet

Jennifer Homans - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Apollo's Angels: A History of
Author: Jennifer Homans
Released: 2010-11-02
 Language:
Pages: 672
ISBN: 1400060605
ISBN13: 978-1400060603
ASIN: 1400060605

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Description:

A Look Inside Apollo's Angels RubiesPhoto by Costas SerenadePhoto by Costas Nutcracker
SnowflakesPhoto by Costas Nikolaj Hübbe in La SylphidePhoto by Costas

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review. In an important and original work of cultural history, New Republic dance critic Homans places ballet--an art often viewed as hermetic and esoteric--in the larger context of the times and societies in which it evolved, flourished, and flagged, only to be revitalized by an infusion of fresh ideas. That revitalization could come from a ballet master like Jean-Georges Noverre, presented by Homans as an important Enlightenment figure whose ideas on reforming ballet were consonant with those of Diderot on reforming theater. Renewal came from the genius of dancers like Marie Taglioni, the incarnation of romanticism, whose originality, Homans indisputably shows, reached far beyond dancing up on her tippy-toes. But in a closing section that will be hotly debated, this exhilarating account sounds a despairing note: "ballet is dying," she

declares. Not only is the creative well running dry and performances dull, but more crucially, Homans sees today's values as inimical to those of ballet ("We are all dancers now," she writes, evoking what she sees as a misguided egalitarianism that denies an art rooted in discipline and virtuosity). Her cultural critique, as well as her expansive and penetrating view of ballet's history, recommend this book to all readers who care about the history of the arts as well as their present and possible future. Color and b&w illus. (Nov.)

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