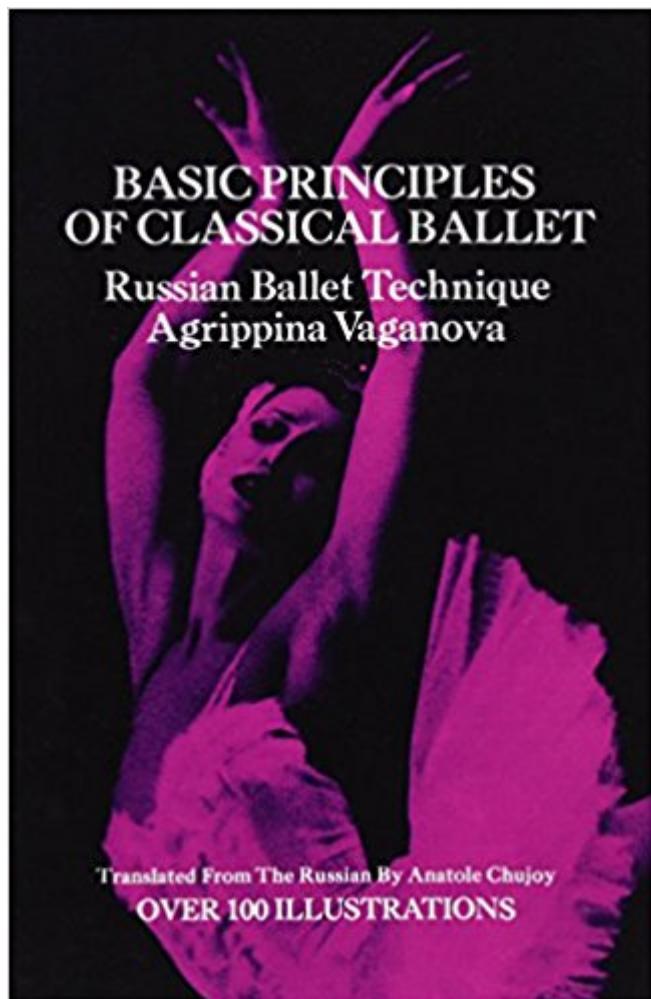


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Basic Principles Of Classical Ballet



Synopsis

Although the stars of Russian ballet Anna Pavlova and Tamara Karsavina possessed a national manner of dancing, there was no truly Russian school of dancing until the 1930s. The development of this school was largely due to Mme. Vaganova (1879–1951), not only a great dancer but also the teacher of Galina Ulanova and many others and an unsurpassed theoretician. The principles of Vaganova's system are presented in this well-known book. Mme. Vaganova's aim of creating a personal approach to the Russian dance was based on the critical assimilation of the experience of her contemporaries. Her ability to choose the best of what had been accomplished in the various ballet traditions (French, Italian, and Russian) and combine these into a unified teaching practice in itself amounted to a new school of dance. She firmly believed that the teaching process should be a planned exercise, ever changing with innovations in the dance. She sought from her pupils emotional expressiveness, strictness of form, a resolute, energetic manner of performance, and the understanding of the underlying coordination of movements. Her book discusses all basic principles of ballet, grouping movements by fundamental types. Chapters cover battements, rotary movements of the legs, the arms, poses of the classical dance, connecting and auxiliary movements, jumps, beats, point work, and turns as well as material for a sample lesson. Diagrams show clearly the exact foot, leg, arm, and body positions for the proper execution of many steps and movements. The result is a fundamental theory of dance that offers dancers, teachers, and ballet lovers information often difficult to locate in other books. 118 illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Russian (translation)

It's amazing how relevant a book written in 1948 is, though the book goes over my head quickly. Also she completely avoids the subject of male instruction.

Classic of classical ballet. A small book, old-fashioned little drawings, but all is explained. I had this one growing up, and now got it for my daughter. It contains everything from basics to more complicated positions, so one uses it differently as one advances through the art. In any case also an item of general ballet culture, giving good insight into the Russian Classical Ballet school.

For my granddaughters

Ordered this classic for Kindle Fire for our newest dancer. Our first copy was paperback. So happy to say that the drawings are just as they appear in the paperback version. This guide should be in every ballet library.

An intriguing journey into the philosophy and methodology of a ballet icon. Detailed descriptions and diagrams of the steps along with the reasons that Ms. Vaganova developed them. Everyone who subscribes to the Russian School should study this book and review it regularly. For that matter, whatever school one prefers, Ms. Vaganova's viewpoint is inspiring, A must for your library!

Useful and easy to read, and a great companion to 100 Lessons in Classical Ballet.

I like having this book. It is great for an adult getting back into ballet, so I am not lost in class.

It is a very useful guide for anybody trying to enter the world of ballet, and it tries to make every movement clear, i think it is almost impossible to describe dance with words but with the help of the book and some visual aids, like videos on youtube, you can have a very complete understanding of this marvelous world

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