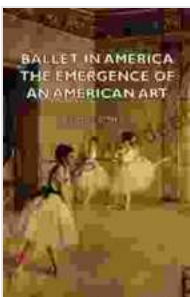


Ballet in America: The Emergence of an American Art

Ballet in America has a rich and fascinating history, dating back to the early 19th century. From its humble beginnings as a form of entertainment for the wealthy elite, ballet has evolved into a vibrant and diverse art form that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds.

The first ballet company in America was founded in New Orleans in 1831. However, it was not until the late 19th century that ballet began to take root in the United States. In 1883, the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City opened its doors, and with it came a new era of ballet in America.



Ballet in America - The Emergence of an American Art

by George Amberg

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Print length : 316 pages

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The Metropolitan Opera House became a major center for ballet in the United States, and it was here that many of the great ballet dancers of the era performed. These dancers included such legendary figures as Anna Pavlova, Tamara Karsavina, and Vaslav Nijinsky.

In the early 20th century, a number of American ballet companies were founded, including the American Ballet Theatre in 1939 and the New York City Ballet in 1948. These companies helped to popularize ballet in America and to develop a uniquely American style of ballet.

Today, ballet is a thriving art form in America. There are over 100 professional ballet companies in the United States, and ballet is taught in schools and studios across the country. Ballet has also become a major part of American popular culture, and it is often featured in movies, television shows, and music videos.

The History of Ballet in America

The history of ballet in America can be divided into three distinct periods:

- **The Early Period (1831-1900):** This period saw the first ballet companies in America being founded and the development of a uniquely American style of ballet.
- **The Golden Age (1900-1950):** This period saw the rise of the Metropolitan Opera House as a major center for ballet in America and the emergence of some of the greatest ballet dancers of all time.
- **The Modern Period (1950-present):** This period has seen the continued growth of ballet in America and the development of new and innovative styles of ballet.

The Early Period (1831-1900)

The first ballet company in America was founded in New Orleans in 1831. This company was known as the New Orleans Ballet Company, and it was led by the French choreographer and dancer Pierre François Gardel.

The New Orleans Ballet Company performed a variety of ballets, including works by the French choreographer Jean-Baptiste Lully and the Italian choreographer Salvatore Vigano. The company also performed a number of works by American choreographers, including Louis Antoine Jullien and Henry Christian Timm.

The New Orleans Ballet Company was disbanded in 1841, but it had a significant impact on the development of ballet in America. The company's performances helped to popularize ballet in the United States and to inspire a number of American choreographers.

The Golden Age (1900-1950)

The Golden Age of ballet in America began in 1900 with the opening of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. The Metropolitan Opera House quickly became a major center for ballet in America, and it was here that many of the great ballet dancers of the era performed.

Some of the most famous ballet dancers of the Golden Age included Anna Pavlova, Tamara Karsavina, and Vaslav Nijinsky. These dancers were known for their incredible technique and artistry, and they helped to inspire a new generation of ballet dancers in America.

In addition to the great ballet dancers of the era, the Golden Age also saw the emergence of a number of important American choreographers. These choreographers included George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Agnes de Mille. These choreographers helped to develop a uniquely American style of ballet that was characterized by its athleticism and energy.

The Modern Period (1950-present)

The Modern Period of ballet in America began in 1950 with the founding of the American Ballet Theatre. The American Ballet Theatre was a new kind of ballet company that was not affiliated with any particular opera house. This gave the company the freedom to experiment with new and innovative styles of ballet.

In the years since its founding, the American Ballet Theatre has become one of the leading ballet companies in the world. The company has premiered a number of important new ballets, including works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Twyla Tharp.

In addition to the American Ballet Theatre, a number of other important ballet companies were founded in the Modern Period. These companies include the New York City Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. These companies have all helped to develop new and innovative styles of ballet.

The Impact of Ballet on American Culture

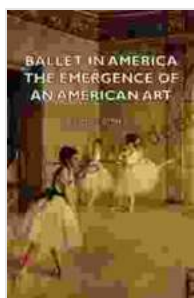
Ballet has had a significant impact on American culture. Ballet has inspired a number of American works of art, including paintings, sculptures, and music. Ballet has also been featured in a number of American movies, television shows, and music videos.

In addition to its impact on the arts, ballet has also had a significant impact on American society. Ballet has helped to promote physical fitness and discipline. Ballet has also helped to create a sense of community and belonging for many Americans.

The Future of Ballet in America

The future of ballet in America is bright. Ballet is a vibrant and diverse art form that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Ballet is also a major part of American popular culture. As the United States continues to grow and diversify, ballet will continue to evolve and thrive.

Ballet is a rich and fascinating part of American culture. From its humble beginnings as a form of entertainment for the wealthy elite, ballet has evolved into a vibrant and diverse art form that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Ballet has also had a significant impact on American culture and society. As the United States continues to grow and diversify, ballet will continue to evolve and thrive.



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