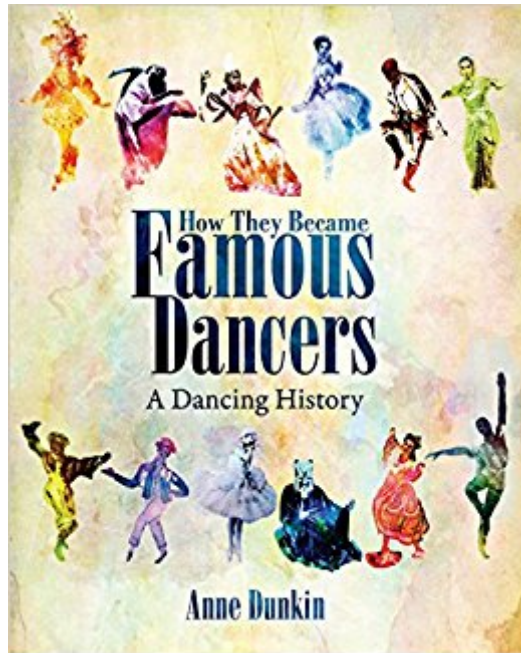




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How They Became Famous Dancers: A Dancing History



Synopsis

How They Became Famous Dancers: A Dancing History for young readers tells the story of twelve famous dancers – six women and six men – from different parts of the world. Spanning the seventeenth into the twenty-first centuries, each biographical sketch is placed within the subject's historical and cultural context. Dancers include: Louis XIV, John Durang, Marie Taglioni, William Henry Juba Lane, Anna Pavlova, Rudolf Laban, Doris Humphrey, Michio Ito, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Pearl Primus, Amalia Hernández, and Arthur Mitchell. Each chapter includes "Create a Dance" giving readers the opportunity to dance themselves based on each dancer's style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Midwest Book Review "A unique and impressively written, organized and presented history of dance, "How They Became Famous Dancers" is very highly recommended for both school and community library collections. For personal reading lists it should be noted that "How They Became Famous Dancers" is also available in a Kindle edition."

Anne Green Gilbert, author of Creative Dance for All Ages and Brain-Compatible Dance Education "I loved this fascinating, easy-to-read, interactive book about some of the most famous dancers of the 17th into the 21st centuries. The book, appropriate for ages 10 and up, is thoroughly researched and beautifully illustrated with lovely drawings and historical paintings and photos. The prompts for creating dances based on each dancer's style that appears at the end of every chapter is a fabulous addition. I highly recommend this book!" Jane M. Bonbright, Ed.D., Founding Executive

Director/National Dance Education Organization "How they Became Famous Dancers: A Dancing History fills a void existing in dance and arts education literature for young readers. It integrates the beautifully researched history with aesthetics and criticism, topics usually not addressed in K-12 arts education materials, and embeds the three artistic processes - creating, performing and responding - through creative dance activities. This book supports different learning styles by introducing and integrating modes of learning that access kinesthetic, spatial, cognitive, and musical intelligences."

Shana Habel, K-12 Dance Adviser, Los Angeles Unified School District "How They Became Famous Dancers: A Dancing History is such a well-written, welcome and much needed addition to the dance literature for young readers. It is an utterly charming book, and hits the mark with its rich text and wonderfully diverse selection of historical figures for students to connect to both intellectually and kinesthetically. I can't wait to explore its possibilities in the classroom!" Dale Schmid, State Arts Resource Specialist

"Finally! Here's an indispensable resource that alleviates the K-12 dance teachers' heavy reliance on dance history text excerpted from scholarly articles and book chapters written for the adult reader. Crafted in student-friendly language, How They Became Famous Dancers: A Dancing History captures the history of dance for young readers in an engaging and direct manner. This book will be a great addition to any school library, as well as a terrific enhancement to dance teachers' personal reference collections." Elsa Posey, R.D.E., President, National Registry of Dance Educators. Director, Posey School of Dance

"How They Became Famous Dancers" is a book I will recommend to all my students and associates. Dancers have need of this book. It will help them reflect on why they dance and how they dance as they learn about famous dancers of the past from all over the world. How will you dance? Reading this book will help inspire you to find your own dance.

Mary-Jean Cowell, Ph.D., Coordinator, Dance Program, Washington University in St. Louis

"The choice of dancers covered in this book is admirable in its diversity of dance genres and ethnicities represented. Moreover, the biographies not only make clear the passion, dedicated effort and persistence required to achieve excellence in dance but also connect the dancers' lives and work with larger sociopolitical issues, some very important today. I would certainly recommend this book to teachers and to families with young dancers."

Great for young dancers, inspiring. I can't wait to use it to teach dance history in my ballet classes.

A fascinating and unusual dance history book for anyone interested in dance for readers age 10-adult.

How They Became Famous Dancers A Dancing History by Anne Dunkin is a wonderful collection of stories. Each chapter is a story unto itself, featuring twelve of history's most influential dancers. As the stories unwind, Anne Dunkin tells the journey of each dancer from their birth, through their childhood and into their adult lives. She highlights their home and place in history as well as how each became a world famous dancer. Her love of dance is clear and quite infectious. This book would be an excellent read-aloud. Reading and discussion of each chapter are aided by the brief "lesson" provided at the end of each chapter. Children as young as eight or ten, especially dancers will love this book. Young adults will love the dance history as well as the introduction to world history. Importantly, the book addresses world cultures and the diversity of people. The book explores how people are more alike than different. Each culture created dance utilizing and accentuating body movement, facial movement, rhythms, sound, music, poetry, lighting and space. A beautifully written, historic timeline stretching from Louis XIV in 1638 to Arthur Mitchell in the present.

I received a copy to facilitate my review the opinions expressed here are my own. This is a wonderful book. My daughter loved dance and at one time was enrolled in eight different dance classes. She could tell me about many of the people who shaped dance in recent years. This book takes us way back to Louis the XIV. This book is the story of twelve dancers who cover the year from the early 1600s to the year 2000. I had not heard of many of these dancers. Their passion for dance was so strong they let nothing stand in their way. In addition to the biographies, at the end of each chapter was a section called "Create a Dance". This section allows you the reader to create a dance in the style of the dance you had just studied. This is a book I will put on my shelves once I have shared it with my daughter.

A wonderful book combining dance and history. Ms. Dunkin includes dancers from a wide range of cultures and styles. The book is also beautifully designed and rich in illustrations. Some schools and libraries may be put off because it is "self-published" as many people still assume such books cannot be high quality. But this one is truly the equal of any book released by a major publisher. The writing is excellent and the author has done amazing amount of historical research to bring us the stories of these inspiring dancers.

Dance enthusiasts will enjoy this book very much. Written with the younger audience in mind, adults

will find this just as rich in tid bits and history. Wonderful additions I appreciated - the photographs, historical document, and Create a Dance allowing readers to dance to each dancer cited style. The biography, historical and cultural information is enough to pay homage and pique interest further. Very well done, fun and best of all interactive.

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