

British Ballet During the Second World War: A Story of Resilience and Triumph

The Second World War was a time of great upheaval and uncertainty. For many people, it was a time of fear and loss. But for the dancers and choreographers of the British ballet world, it was also a time of great creativity and resilience.



Albion's Dance: British Ballet during the Second World

War by Guillermo Dufranc

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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In the early days of the war, many people feared that ballet would be one of the first casualties. After all, ballet is a luxury art form, and it seemed frivolous to spend time and money on it when there was so much suffering in the world. But the dancers and choreographers of the British ballet world were determined to keep their art alive.

They faced many challenges. The war meant that there were fewer opportunities to perform, and many dancers were called up to fight. But the dancers and choreographers refused to give up. They found new ways to perform, and they created new works that reflected the spirit of the times.

One of the most famous examples of British ballet's resilience during the Second World War is the story of the Sadler's Wells Ballet. The Sadler's Wells Ballet was one of the leading ballet companies in the world, and it was based in London. When the war broke out, the Sadler's Wells Theatre was bombed, and the company was forced to find a new home. They eventually settled in the Royal Opera House, where they continued to perform throughout the war.

The Sadler's Wells Ballet's wartime performances were a source of great inspiration to the British people. The dancers' skill and artistry provided a much-needed escape from the horrors of war. And the company's determination to keep dancing showed that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.

British Ballet During the Second World War is a story of resilience and triumph. It is a story of how art can survive and even thrive in the face of adversity. And it is a story of the indomitable spirit of the British people.

Firsthand Accounts from Dancers, Choreographers, and Other Key Figures

British Ballet During the Second World War is filled with firsthand accounts from dancers, choreographers, and other key figures in the ballet world. These accounts provide a unique glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of British ballet during the war.

One of the most moving accounts in the book is from ballerina Margot Fonteyn. Fonteyn was one of the greatest dancers of her generation, and she performed with the Sadler's Wells Ballet throughout the war. In her account, Fonteyn describes the challenges of dancing during wartime, and she also reflects on the importance of art in times of crisis.

Another fascinating account in the book is from choreographer Frederick Ashton. Ashton was one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, and he created many of the most famous ballets of the era. In his account, Ashton discusses the challenges of creating new works during wartime, and he also reflects on the role of ballet in society.

The firsthand accounts in *British Ballet During the Second World War* provide a rich and textured portrait of the British ballet world during the war. These accounts are essential reading for anyone interested in the history of ballet or in the role of art in times of crisis.

Rare Photographs and Artwork

British Ballet During the Second World War is illustrated with rare photographs and artwork. These images provide a visual record of the British ballet world during the war, and they help to bring the story to life.

One of the most striking photographs in the book is a photo of Margot Fonteyn dancing in the ruins of the Sadler's Wells Theatre. This photo captures the resilience and determination of the British ballet world during the war. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of art in times of crisis.

Another fascinating image in the book is a painting of a ballerina dancing in front of a bombed-out building. This painting captures the surreal and often

tragic atmosphere of wartime London. It is a reminder of the challenges that the British people faced during the war, and it is also a tribute to the power of art to provide hope and inspiration.

The rare photographs and artwork in *British Ballet During the Second World War* provide a unique and valuable glimpse into the British ballet world during the war. These images are essential viewing for anyone interested in the history of ballet or in the role of art in times of crisis.

British Ballet During the Second World War is a powerful and moving story of resilience and triumph. It is a story of how art can survive and even thrive in the face of adversity. And it is a story of the indomitable spirit of the British people.

The book is filled with firsthand accounts from dancers, choreographers, and other key figures in the ballet world. These accounts provide a unique glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of British ballet during the war. The book is also illustrated with rare photographs and artwork, which provide a visual record of the British ballet world during the war.

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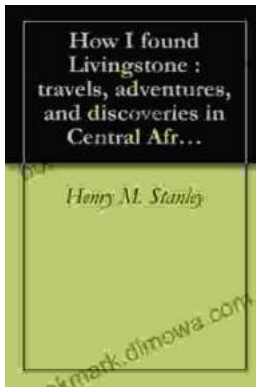
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