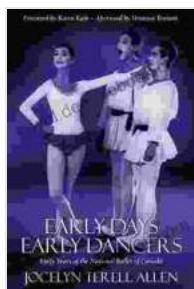


# Early Days, Early Dancers: Exploring the History of Ballet

Ballet, an art form characterized by its graceful movements, intricate choreography, and expressive storytelling, has a rich and fascinating history that spans centuries. The origins of ballet can be traced back to the Italian Renaissance, when courtiers and nobles performed elaborate dances at social gatherings.

One of the earliest known forms of ballet was the **"ballo"**, a type of dance performed at the courts of the Italian nobility. These dances were often accompanied by music and singing, and they featured elaborate costumes and sets. Over time, the **"ballo"** evolved into the **"ballet de cour"**, a more formalized type of dance that was performed by professional dancers.



## Early Days, Early Dancers: Early Years of the National Ballet of Canada by Nolon Stacey

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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The "***ballet de cour***" was introduced to France in the 16th century, and it quickly became a popular form of entertainment at the court of King Louis XIV. Under the patronage of the king, ballet flourished in France, and many of the elements that we associate with ballet today, such as the use of pointe shoes and the development of complex choreography, were first developed during this time.

In the 18th century, ballet began to spread to other parts of Europe, and it became a popular form of entertainment in theaters and opera houses. The Romantic era of ballet, which lasted from the 1830s to the 1850s, saw the rise of some of the most famous ballet dancers in history, such as Marie Taglioni and Fanny Elssler.

The 20th century saw a number of important developments in ballet. The Russian choreographer Marius Petipa created some of the most famous ballets of all time, such as "***Swan Lake***" and "***The Sleeping Beauty***". The development of modern dance in the early 20th century also had a significant impact on ballet, and many choreographers began to experiment with new and innovative forms of dance.

Today, ballet is a global art form that is enjoyed by audiences of all ages. It is performed by dancers from all over the world, and it continues to evolve and change in response to the changing times.

## **Early Ballet Dancers**

Some of the most famous early ballet dancers include:

- **Domenico da Piacenza** (c. 1400-c. 1470): An Italian dancing master who wrote one of the earliest known treatises on dance.

- **Cesare Negri** (c. 1530-c. 1600): An Italian dancing master who published a number of influential dance manuals.
- **Balthasar de Beaujoyeulx** (c. 1535-c. 1587): A French dancing master who choreographed some of the most elaborate court ballets of the 16th century.
- **Fabritio Caroso** (1526-1605): An Italian dancing master who published a number of dance manuals that were influential in the development of ballet.
- **Pierre Beauchamp** (1631-1705): A French dancing master who codified the five basic positions of ballet and developed a system of notation for dance.
- **Jean-Baptiste Lully** (1632-1687): A French composer and choreographer who played a major role in the development of ballet in France.
- **François Rebel** (1666-1747): A French composer and choreographer who collaborated with Jean-Philippe Rameau on a number of ballets.
- **Jean-Philippe Rameau** (1683-1764): A French composer and music theorist who wrote some of the most famous ballets of the 18th century.
- **Marie Camargo** (1714-1770): A French ballerina who was known for her virtuosity and her ability to dance on pointe.
- **Gaetano Vestris** (1729-1808): An Italian dancer and choreographer who was one of the most famous dancers of the 18th century.

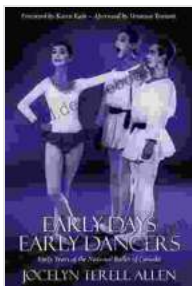
## **Timeline of Ballet History**

- **c. 1400:** Domenico da Piacenza writes one of the earliest known treatises on dance.
- **c. 1530:** Cesare Negri publishes a number of influential dance manuals.
- **c. 1581:** Balthasar de Beaujoyeux choreographs one of the most elaborate court ballets of the 16th century.
- **1661:** Pierre Beauchamp codifies the five basic positions of ballet and develops a system of notation for dance.
- **1673:** Jean-Baptiste Lully collaborates with Molière on the ballet-comedy "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme".
- **1735:** Jean-Philippe Rameau collaborates with Voltaire on the ballet "Les Indes galantes".
- **1770:** Marie Camargo makes her debut at the Paris Opera.
- **1789:** Gaetano Vestris performs his first ballet at the Paris Opera.
- **1832:** Marie Taglioni dances the title role in "La Sylphide", one of the most famous Romantic ballets.
- **1843:** Fanny Elssler dances the title role in "Giselle", another famous Romantic ballet.
- **1892:** Marius Petipa choreographs "The Sleeping Beauty", one of the most famous classical ballets.
- **1909:** Sergei Diaghilev founds the Ballets Russes, which has a major impact on the development of modern ballet.
- **1933:** George Balanchine founds the School of American Ballet.

- **1948:** Jerome Robbins choreographs "Fancy Free", one of the most famous American ballets.
- **1956:** Rudolf Nureyev defects to the West, becoming one of the most famous ballet dancers in the world.
- **1970:** The New York City Ballet premieres George Balanchine's "Jewels", one of the most famous neoclassical ballets.
- **1980:** Mikhail Baryshnikov defects to the West, becoming one of the most famous ballet dancers in the world.
- **Today:** Ballet continues to evolve and change, and it is enjoyed by audiences of all ages around the world.

Ballet is a beautiful and expressive art form that has a rich and fascinating history. From its origins in the Italian Renaissance to its development in France and Russia, ballet has evolved and changed over the centuries, but it has always remained a popular and beloved form of entertainment.

Today, ballet is performed by dancers from all over the world, and it continues to inspire and amaze audiences of all ages.



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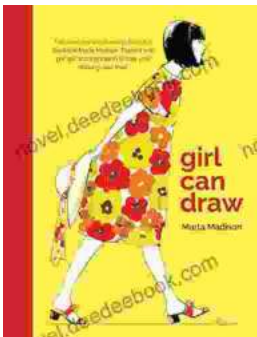
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