



Child's Introduction to Ballet: The Stories, Music, and Magic of Classical Dance

By Laura Lee

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The latest volume in Black Dog's successful book-and-CD series combines the mesmerizing stories of the world's great ballets with fun facts, dancing how-tos, history, profiles— all accompanied by charming original watercolors.

From *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* to *Peter and the Wolf* and *Fancy Free*, the of twenty-five of the world's best-loved ballets are told, accompanied by corresponding tracks on an enclosed CD. These are the charming stories that bring ballet to life on the stage, along with the music that has made them into enduring classics.

Surrounding the stories is a captivating, illustrated history of ballet, each page filled with information, artwork, and profiles of the world's great dancers, choreographers, and composers. There are even instructions on ballet positions and the key moves that every dancer needs to know.

The musical selections included on the CD are keyed to specific points in the text, making the book uniquely interactive, educational, and fun.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

Welcome to the magical world of ballet! In this book you'll experience dance in a whole new way--by listening and learning at the same time. You'll read about the history of ballet and its most famous dancers, composers, and choreographers. You'll find out a little bit about the different ballet steps and positions (and get a chance to try them yourself). And best of all, you'll read the wonderful stories of the world's greatest ballets, and, as the stories unfold, you can listen to pieces of music from some of them. Soon, you will be a ballet expert!

From *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* to *Rodeo*, *Fancy Free*, and *Peter and the Wolf*, all of the world's most popular and beloved ballets are included here, illustrated with beautiful watercolors that you will want to return to again and again. Enjoy the stories (and the stories behind):

La Sylphide

Giselle

Coppelia

Don Quixote

Swan Lake

Sleeping Beauty

The Nutcracker

Dying Swan

Firebird

Petrouchka

The Rite of Spring

Peter and the Wolf

Romeo and Juliet

Rodeo

Fancy Free

Circus Polka

Cinderella

Daphnis and Chloé

and more!

From the Back Cover

Listen while you learn about the world's greatest ballets, dancers, choreographers, and composers!

Why do ballet dancers stand like ducks? (*Page 13*)

How high can the greatest ballet dancers leap? (*Page 27*)

What famous ballet company was originally made up of orphans? (*Page 32*)

Which very popular ballet was a complete FLOP when it was first performed? (*Page 37*)

Name three ballets featuring toys that come to life. (*Page 55*)

Which ballet music sounds as if it was written for stomping giants rather than pretty ballerinas? (*Page 58*)

Which famous ballet dancer did a duet with Miss Piggy on *The Muppet Show*? (*Page 81*)

Enjoy stories of the world's great ballets, listen to the music that brings them to life—and find out lots of fun facts along the way—in this entertaining and colorful book for young dancers and dance-lovers at every

level.

About the Author

Meredith Hamilton graduated from Brown University and has an MFA from the School of Visual Arts. Formerly an art director at *Newsweek* and *Time*, she illustrated the previous six books in the Child's Introduction series, among other books, and her work can be found in magazines and animations as well. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and three children.

Laura Lee is currently producing a U.S. tour of the Russian Classical Ballet. She is the author of *The Encyclopedia of Aggravation* and *The Elvis Impersonation Kit*, both available from Black Dog & Leventhal.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stephen Bruns:

The event that you get from Child's Introduction to Ballet: The Stories, Music, and Magic of Classical Dance is a more deep you digging the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Child's Introduction to Ballet: The Stories, Music, and Magic of Classical Dance giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by simply anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that Child's Introduction to Ballet: The Stories, Music, and Magic of Classical Dance instantly.

Carmelita Ratliff:

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Joan Munoz:

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Peter Beaton:

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