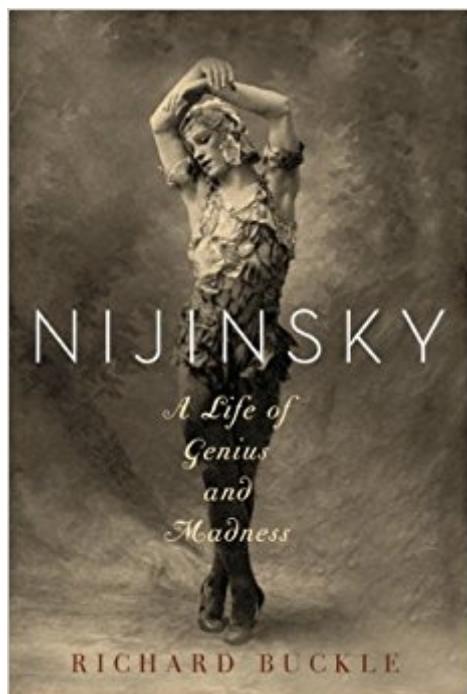


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Nijinsky: A Life Of Genius And Madness



Synopsis

The intoxicating story of one of the greatest dancers in the history of ballet and the paradox of his profound genius and descent into madness. Vaslav Nijinsky stands alone as a dancer, interpretive artist, and choreographic pioneer. His breathtaking performances with the Ballet Russe took Western Europe by storm, and his avant-garde choreography for *The Afternoon of the Faun* and *Rite of Spring* caused riots in the streets. Both are now regarded as the foundation of modern dance. Through his liaison with the great impresario Diaghilev, he worked with the artistic elite of the time—Benois, Bakst, Debussy, Fokine, Karsavina, Pavlova, Stravinsky—and lived in an atmosphere of perpetual hysteria, glamour, and intrigue. When he married a Hungarian aristocrat, Diaghilev abruptly dismissed him from the Ballet Russe. Five years later, he was declared insane. The fabulous career of the greatest dancer who ever lived was over. Drawing on personal conversations with countless people who knew and worked with Nijinsky, including his sister and famed choreographer Bronislava Nijinska, Richard Buckle has written the definitive biography of Nijinsky, now back in print for the first time in more than forty years. 36 pages of black & white photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Those not born in a time to see the most extraordinary of all male dancers will realize that all they have heard from their elders is true.” - Rebecca West, *Sunday Telegraph*

Richard Buckle was one of the leading authorities on Diaghilev and the Ballet Russe. He was the ballet critic of the London Observer and the Sunday Times in London and was a pallbearer at Nijinsky's funeral in 1950. Richard died in 2001.

Interesting read about a rich era in the history of dance. Unfortunately the Kindle version is missing almost all the many, many photos that are listed in the table of contents. Very disappointing and the advertising for the Kindle version should have stated this up front.

The subject is indeed a great artist with an amazing ability and grace. The work is a bit laborious to wade through having spots that would be better shortened so the reader like myself doesn't skip or skim. Perhaps my reading is at fault. Great research however.

An excellent tale of a troubled genius. Well researched - not to mention illustrated - biography of one of the world's legends of dance.

I wanted to read about Nijinsky's life, especially his relationship with Diaghilev and his battle with schizophrenia. Instead, I read a adroitly written account of the early days of Ballets Russes. Buckle's descriptions of scenery, costumes and ballet are as vivid as they are erudite. I learned so much. With such characters as Mata Hari, Isadora Duncan, Stravinsky and Ravel, one would expect some tawdry details of the artists who shared the stage with the great Nijinsky. Nothing doing! Even the love affair between Nijinsky and Diaghilev is left to innuendo and subscript. I have since ordered Nijinsky's diary, hoping to quench my thirst for more about the artist and less about the art.

Mr. Buckle has done a very good job, although sometimes allows himself to excuse some of the characters around Nijinsky, I guess it is his prerogative or perhaps unavoidable....

Wonderful story!

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I absolutely could not put this book down. If you love ballet, but have no knowledge or if you have knowledge, read this. He was a fascinated, beyond talented human being. What I wouldn't give to have seen him perform. Yes. He was flawed, but aren't we all at some point.

Peace out

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