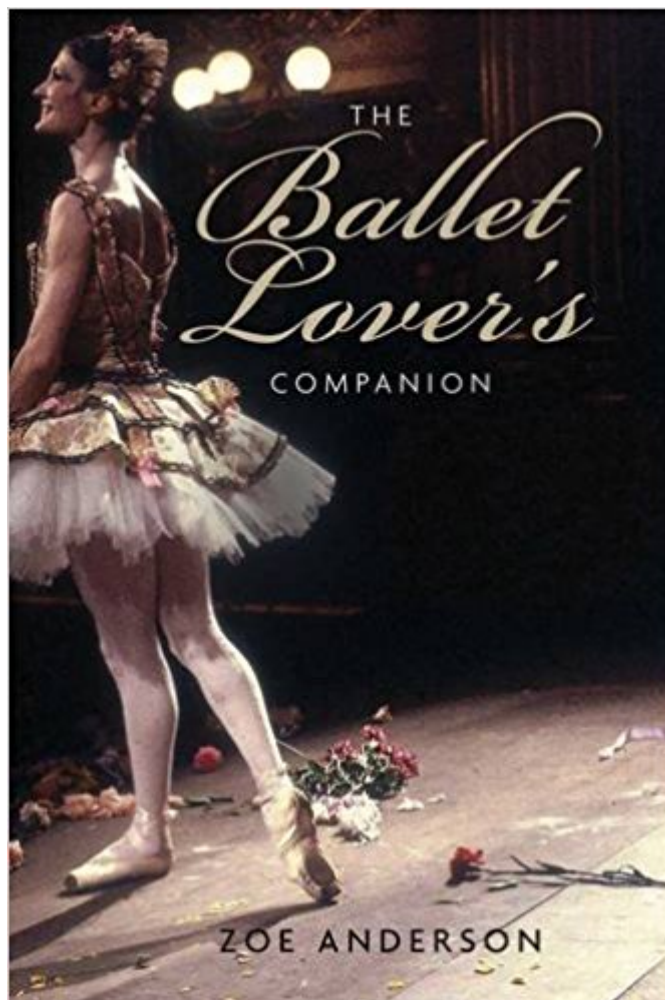


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# The Ballet Lover's Companion



## Synopsis

A richly informed, up-to-date performance guide to more than 140 favorite ballets, from the classical era to the present day. This engaging book is a welcome guide to the most successful and loved ballets seen on the stage today. Dance writer and critic Zoe Anderson focuses on 140 ballets, a core international repertory that encompasses works from the ethereal world of romantic ballet to the edgy, muscular works of modern choreographers. She provides a wealth of facts and insights, including information familiar only to dance world insiders, and considers such recent works as Alexei Ramansky's Shostakovich Trilogy and Christopher Wheeldon's The Winter's Tale as well as older ballets once forgotten but now returned to the repertory, such as Sylvia. To enhance enjoyment of each ballet, Anderson also offers tips on what to look for during a performance. Each chapter introduces a period of ballet history and provides an overview of innovations and advancement in the art form. In the individual entries that follow, Anderson includes essential facts about each ballet—its themes, plot, composers, choreographers, dance style, and music. The author also addresses the circumstances of each ballet's creation and its effect in the theater, and she recounts anecdotes that illuminate performance history and reception. Reliable, accessible, and fully up to date, this book will delight anyone who attends the ballet, participates in ballet, or simply loves ballet and wants to know much more about it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[A] crisp ability to convey an affection for ballet and a clear-eyed view of its oddities is the abiding tone of this authoritative study of the art form—its history; from its origins in the courts of

France and Italy to its current incarnation as a many faceted, international genre." — Sarah Compton, Sunday Times "This entertaining read will spark interest in an assortment of productions and make readers want to go see a performance — or at least view The Red Shoes." — Library Journal "Ballet's long history is well served by this compact guide to its core repertory. . . . [Anderson's] knowledge and elegant prose create an engaging work that will appeal to ballet neophytes and veteran balletomanes alike." — Carolyn Mulac, Booklist

Zoe Anderson is dance critic for the Independent and author of *The Royal Ballet: 75 Years*. She lives in London.

A thorough, yet entertaining guide to the greatest and even lesser known ballets of our time. A must for any ballet lover or historian.

I loved it! I've spent many hours enjoying it.

One of my friend's daughters is passionate about ballet, and she fell in love with this book when I gave it to her as a birthday gift. Perfect for those interested in detailed info about the world of ballet.

Great.

Zoe Anderson has written a fine, accessible book that is useful both as a guide when choosing performances and as a general reference. It's all here: information about choreographers, music, and originating companies and casts, as well as about important revisions and restagings of classic ballets. The focus is mostly on describing each work and highlighting key scenes and dances without a lot of criticism or analysis of technique. My only quibble is that Anderson doesn't list opus numbers for works by composers whose music is systematically catalogued. It's not a big deal but matching music recordings to ballets sometimes involves a little extra work (for example, "violin concerto" or "orchestral suite" often appear many, many times in an oeuvre and, as such, can be somewhat ambiguous). In any case, I use *The Ballet Lover's Companion* often, in conjunction with *Balanchine's 101 Stories of the Great Ballets*, and recommend it highly. Four

stars.

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