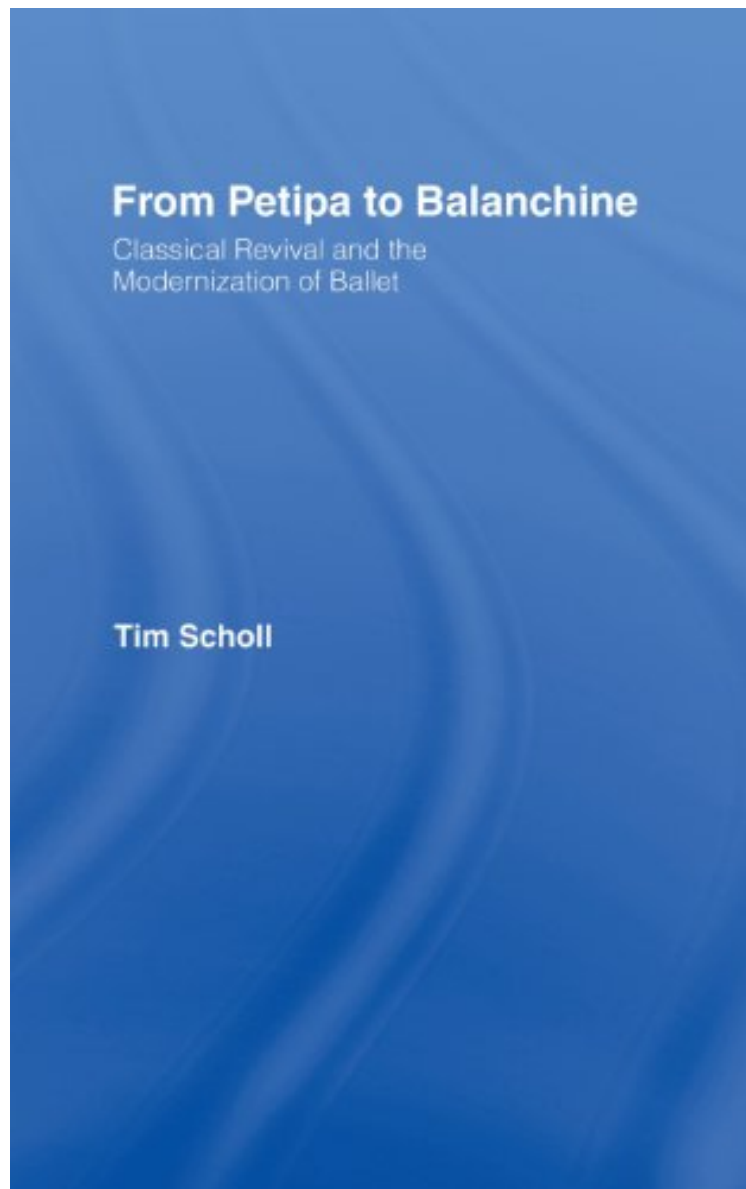


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From Petipa to Balanchine: Classical Revival and the Modernisation of Ballet

Tim Scholl

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Tim Scholl : From Petipa to Balanchine: Classical Revival and the Modernisation of Ballet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Petipa to Balanchine: Classical Revival and the Modernisation of Ballet:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Up your ballet IQ By in the music A must-have for any serious student of ballet or the history of dance. The author is a first-rate scholar and his use of original material as source is well documented and researched. This book is worth having for its bibliography alone. The chapter notes are impeccable and the text is interesting and readable by anyone interested in dance or the journey of ballet to Russia and the US in the 19th and 20th centuries. I have enjoyed the work of Balanchine for most of my adult life, but until reading Scholl's work, I never felt that I had an understanding of what his historical contribution was and how it developed in an American context. The book is more readable than this review. The only negative is that all of the photos are from Balanchine's black and white ballets. A wider range of images would have made the book seem less like an academic treatise, and a more valuable reference. The price is hefty, but this is the kind of book that goes out of print quickly and become very hard to find.

In this rich interdisciplinary study Tim Scholl provides a provocative and timely re-evaluation of the development of ballet from the 1880s to the middle of the twentieth century. In the light of a thoughtful re-appraisal of dance classicism he locates the roots of modern ballet in the works of Marius Petipa, rather than in the much-celebrated choreographic experiments of Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. Not only is this the first book to present nineteenth- and twentieth-century ballet as a continuous rather than broken tradition, *From Petipa to Balanchine* places works such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Les Sylphides*, *Apollo* and *Jewels* in their proper cultural and artistic context. The only English-language study to be based on the original Russian sources, this book will be essential reading for all dance scholars. Written in an engaging and elegant style it will also appeal to anyone interested in the history of ballet generally.

From *Library Journal* This is an original and potentially controversial study of the evolution of modern ballet. Scholl (Russian studies, Oberlin Coll.) constructs a convincing argument that the choreography of George Balanchine was a 20th-century response to the innovations of Marius Petipa of 19th-century Russia. He contradicts the prevailing interpretation that modernism's beginnings lie in the work of Mikhail Fokine and Diaghilev's Ballet Russes. Balanchine rejected Diaghilev's formula for synthesizing dance, music, and the visual arts, choosing instead to return to a more basic format. Scholl's thesis is formulated from careful reading of key ballets (e.g., *Les Sylphides*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Apollo*, and *Jewels*). Based on extensive research of dance and the related arts during this period, this book offers intelligent and insightful analyses in sensitive, clearly written prose. Highly recommended for serious dance collections. Joan Stahl, National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. . . . the most trustworthy and readable work to emerge on the sources and progeny of St. Petersburg's ballet. Sure to cause controversy among Diaghilev worshippers, Scholl's book asks questions that dance scholars need answered and provides the wide-ranging research and thoughtful synthesis to answer those questions."- Don Daniels, "Ballet" "Tim Scholl approaches his subject from a fresh point of view that will surely excite enthusiastic approval in some readers and violent disapproval in others ... Perhaps, in addition to its great value for setting Russian ballet in this thoroughly researched, historical context, Scholl's book is important for stirring up questions that need to be pondered. Dance can use such constructive provocation."-"Dance Chronicle" "In this reevaluation of Russian classical ballet, Russian literature scholar Scholl examines the Russian ballet's classical revival in the first decades of this century, using the notion of retrospectivism.' Rather than a comprehensive history "From Petipa to Balanchine looks at several landmark works of Petipa ("*Sleeping Beauty*") and George Balanchine ("*Apollo*" and "*Jewels*")."- "The Drama", Winter 1995 "A definite yes."-"Dance Teacher Now About the Author Tim Scholl is Associate Professor in the Department of Russian at Oberlin College, Ohio. He is a frequent contributor to Ballet .