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HISTORY OF THE ART OF BALLET

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Abstract:

This article delves into the rich and varied history of ballet, tracing its evolution from its origins in the courts of the Italian Renaissance to the modern forms seen on stages around the world today. Through a careful analysis of the literature, the article explores the key stages, influential figures, and changing styles that made ballet the complex and expressive art form it is today. The results section provides a chronological account of ballet's development, highlighting important periods and innovations, and finally, the paper concludes with reflections on ballet's continuing relevance and suggests avenues for future exploration in dance scholarship.

Keywords: ballet history, dance evolution, classical ballet, romantic ballet, neoclassical ballet, modern ballet, choreography, dance technique, artistic expression.

A timeless and fascinating form of artistic expression, ballet has a rich history spanning centuries and continents. From its humble beginnings in the Italian courts of the Renaissance to the dazzling productions on global stages today, ballet has undergone profound transformations, adapting to changing cultural landscapes and artistic trends. This article aims to provide a comprehensive account of the evolution of ballet, exploring its various stages, key players, and the interplay between tradition and innovation players, and the interplay between tradition and innovation. The study of ballet history draws on a variety of sources, including historical records, choreographic manuals, critical commentaries, and first-hand accounts of dancers and choreographers. Based on these materials, this article synthesizes existing scholarship on ballet and offers nuanced insights into its development over time.

Research for this article included a systematic review of historical documents, dance archives, and scholarly literature on ballet. Primary sources such as letters, diaries and pamphlets are consulted for information on ballet practices and concepts in





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different periods. Secondary sources provided contextual information that allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the socio-cultural and artistic factors influencing the evolution of ballet.

The history of ballet is a rich and interesting journey spanning several centuries. Ballet has evolved from polite entertainment to a highly technical and expressive art form. Brief information about the main periods and changes in the history of ballet: Renaissance (XV-XVII centuries):

The origins of ballet are in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 15th century. It began as a social dance often performed at Royal gatherings and events.

- Catherine De Medici, an Italian noblewoman, married the future King Henry II of France in 1533. He brought his love of the arts, including dance, to the French court. During this time, ballet began to gain popularity at the French court.

Court ballet (XVII century):

He was a passionate dancer and organized the Akadekspermie Royale De Danse in 1661, which later became part of the Paris Opera.

- Pierre Beauchamp, the king's ballet master, codified the five basic foot positions, a system that forms the basis of classical ballet technique.

Romantic period (XIX century):

- The Romantic period in ballet is characterized by the development of narrative ballets with fantastic themes and elaborate sets and costumes.
- La Sylphide (1832) by Filippo Taglioni and Giselle (1841) by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot are notable works of this period. Pointe work became an essential element for female dancers during the Romantic era.

Classical ballet (late 19th-early 20th century):

- French choreographer and ballet master Marius Petipa played an important role in the development of classical ballet. He created many iconic works such as Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake and The Nutcracker.
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's music often accompanied Petipa's choreography, creating some of the most enduring ballets in history.

20th Century News:

- Founded by Sergei Diaghilev, the Ballets Russes brought together influential artists such as choreographer Michel Foquin, composer Igor Stravinsky, and designer Pablo Picasso.
- Russian-born choreographer George Balanchine founded the New York City Ballet in 1948. He played a decisive role in the development of neoclassical ballet, emphasizing speed, athleticism and abstract choreography





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Modern ballet (late 20th century):

- Choreographers such as Twila Tharp, William Forsyth, and Mats Eck expanded the boundaries of traditional ballet, incorporating elements of modern dance and discovering new movement vocabularies.
- Ballet companies around the world continue to perform classical repertoire alongside contemporary works, demonstrating the diversity and evolution of the art form.

Ballet has adapted and changed throughout its history, reflecting the cultural and artistic trends of each era, while maintaining the core principles of grace, precision, and storytelling through movement.

The evolution of ballet is closely related to broader cultural shifts that reflect changes in social norms, artistic ideologies, and technological advances. For example, the fusion of classical techniques with modern innovations has given rise to various choreographic styles. In the debate department, influential figures such as Marius Petipa, George Balanchine and Pina Bausch left a lasting mark on ballet, shaping its trajectory and expanding its possibilities.

Conclusions and suggestions:

In short, the history of ballet is a fascinating journey through time that reflects the dynamics of human creativity and expression. As we celebrate the legacy of classical ballet and embrace the innovations of contemporary forms, it is important to continue to explore the intersections between tradition and experience. Future research could delve deeper into the cultural impact of ballet, the impact of globalization on dance styles, and the evolving role of technology in choreography. In doing so, we contribute to a deeper understanding of ballet's past, present and future, ensuring its solid place as a vibrant and evolving art form.

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