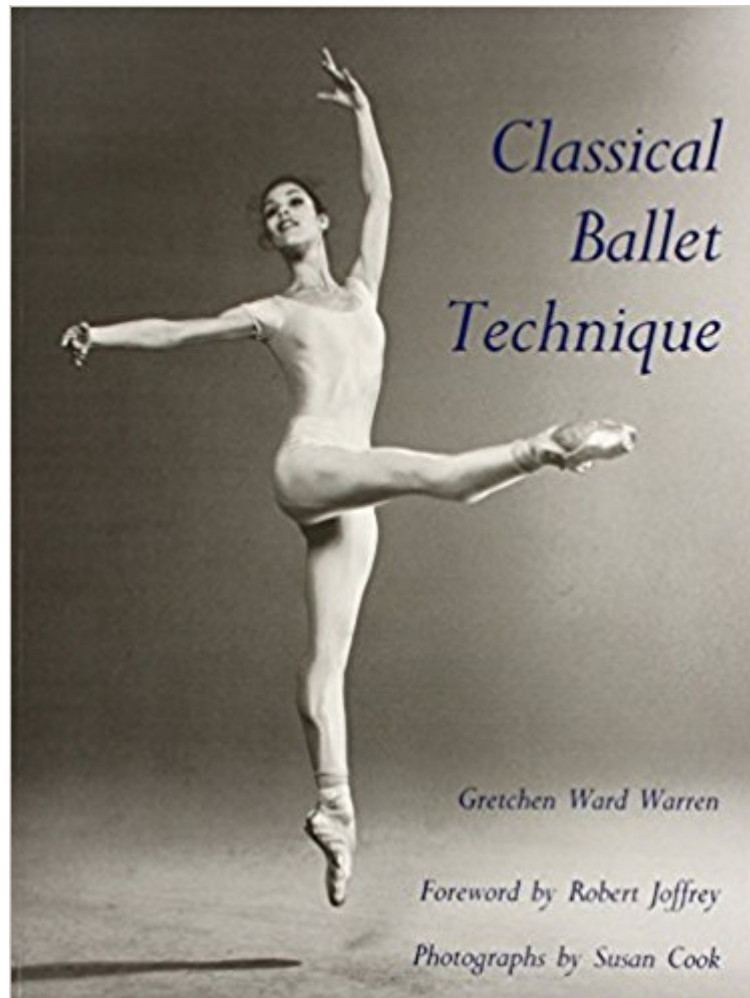




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Classical Ballet Technique



Synopsis

"Classical Ballet Technique is an invaluable guide for students, teachers, and ballet lovers. It not only covers the broad spectrum of ballet vocabulary but also gives sound, practical advice to aspiring dancers. The clarity of the writing, in a field notorious for its opaqueness, is in itself a major achievement."--Merrill Ashley, Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet

"An excellent, comprehensive guide to ballet pedagogy valuable to teachers and students alike. For many years Gretchen's has been a major voice in the dance community, and this extensive work details the study of classical ballet from her unique and expert point of view. I applaud her, and I heartily recommend Classical Ballet Technique."--David Howard, International Ballet Master and Master Teacher

"Gretchen Warren has undertaken a monumental task and has completed it with distinction. Obviously a labor of love, this book's attention to detail and the clarity of its text and photos make it a valuable contribution to the lexicon of ballet. I recommend it to every serious student and teacher."--Thalia Mara, Founding Director, Ballet Repertory Company and National Academy of Ballet; Artistic Director, U.S.A. International Ballet Competition

"Congratulations to Ms. Warren for her authoritative book on classical ballet. Thanks are in order too from the many professional teachers, dancers, and students of the art form who will benefit from this book-an essential addition to any dance lover's library."--Lawrence Rhodes, Artistic Director, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens

Gretchen Ward Warren studied at London's Royal Ballet and the National Ballet School of Washington, D.C. She was soloist with the Pennsylvania Ballet for eleven years and ballet mistress of American Ballet Theatre II from 1978 to 1983. She is professor of dance at the University of South Florida and frequently appears as a master teacher on the national and international circuits.

Susan Cook has photographed the performing arts for the past fifteen years. Her work has appeared in Time, Newsweek, the New York Times, and many dance books. Her own books of photographs include In a Rehearsal Room and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Book Information

Paperback: 395 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida; Later Printing edition (December 1, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813009456

ISBN-13: 978-0813009452

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.8 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 92 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #30,936 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Ballet](#) #8 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Classical](#) #166 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater](#)

Customer Reviews

An important addition to the reference libraries of teachers and students of ballet. Warren, soloist with the Pennsylvania Ballet for 11 years and now associate professor of dance at the University of South Florida, explains the correct execution of every step in the ballet vocabulary. Dancers from the American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet appear in over 2600 photographs and illustrate the movement. Part 1 of the book covers basic concepts of training, physical characteristics of the ideal dancer, and suggestions for conducting a successful class. Part 2 is devoted to sequential photographs of more involved steps and definitions of terminology. Warren includes stylistic variations--Soviet, Italian, French, etc. This book is unprecedented in its detail and clarity. For anyone with a serious interest in ballet. Highly recommended.- Joan Stahl, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore
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"An important addition to the reference libraries of teachers and students of ballet...for anyone with a serious interest." -- Library Journal
Simply unequalled; nothing else is even close. --
balletbooks.com

Gretchen Warren's 'Classical Ballet Technique' is a very thorough explanation of classical ballet theory, suitable for intermediate and advanced students. If you are a beginner student, you might like more explanations of the basic technique and less of the advanced material. There are two things I don't like about this book. First, the photos are mostly small and are all black and white with the models often wearing dark or grey leotards. This means it's hard to see some of the details. Second, it's quite old-fashioned (first published in the 1980s). So, some of the language and views, for example the section on the 'ideal ballet body', are out-dated and restrictive. This means, I wouldn't give this to a young girl. It's really designed for the aspiring professional.

The photos are the best part of this manual. Step by step, the movements are decomposed to show

exactly how a well-performed syllabus is achieved. Gorgeously presented and a go-to for technical and style questions that any ballet dancer may have, either beginner or professional.

As a photographer I was keen to venture out and try my hand at ballet photography and I started out quite wrong - I shot a lot of blur and unwanted motion within ballet - a big no no! I needed to learn what ballet was and this book helped me see and later visualize what would be coming, and I feel through books like this one my skill at photographing dance improved. There are not many options out there like this one, which is also surprising, so this one gets even more of a thumbs up as it must be regarded such a great book for those new to ballet.

This book is just what every dancer needs. A wonderful reference. It includes hundreds of photos. Specific notes and descriptions of correct execution of positions, steps, moves. I especially love that there are photos of the incorrect way, too. Goes into detailed explanations of why different exercises are important. Detailed coverage of everything ballet :)

Well photographed and illustrated a recommended book for any would be aspiring ballerina or those who love Classical ballet. I only wish the book was still available as a hardcover book for durability and the photos were in color instead of black and white. Yes, color printing costs more, but in this case the price would have been well worth it; otherwise I would have given it a five star rating. Makes a great gift.

Recommended by our artistic director of my daughter's classic ballet school! She keeps it out at her school.

This was a college book needed for my daughter. It is beautifully illustrated and the pages are large and clearly defined. It shipped quickly and was packaged perfectly as well.

I had read great reviews for this book, and finally lashed out and bought it. Now I have, I can't believe I hadn't done so sooner. The photos of correct versus incorrect are perfect - simple flaws you often cannot even see at a glance, however they draw your attention to your errors beautifully. Please disregard the twice-posted mention of photos being too small. This book is so comprehensive that providing larger photos would make it the size of an encyclopedia, and is not necessary at all. THIS BOOK IS WONDERFUL, particularly for adult students who are interested in

learning the ins and outs of technique for themselves alongside doing actual DVD or class lessons.

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