



# A Queer History of the Ballet

*Peter Stoneley*

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Designed for students, scholars and general readers with an interest in dance and queer history, *A Queer History of the Ballet* focuses on how, as makers and as audiences, queer men and women have helped to develop many of the texts, images, and legends of ballet.

Presenting a series of historical case studies, the book explores the ways in which, from the nineteenth century into the twentieth, ballet has been a means of conjuring homosexuality – of enabling some degree of expression and visibility for people who were otherwise declared illegal and obscene.

Studies include:

- the perverse sororities of the Romantic ballet
- the fairy in folklore, literature, and ballet
- Tchaikovsky and the making of Swan Lake
- Diaghilev's Ballets Russes and the emergence of queer modernity
- the formation of ballet in America
- the queer uses of the prima ballerina
- Genet's writings for and about ballet.

Also including a consideration of how ballet's queer tradition has been memorialized by such contemporary dance-makers as Neumeier, Bausch, Bourne, and Preljocaj, this is an essential book in the study of ballet and queer history.

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