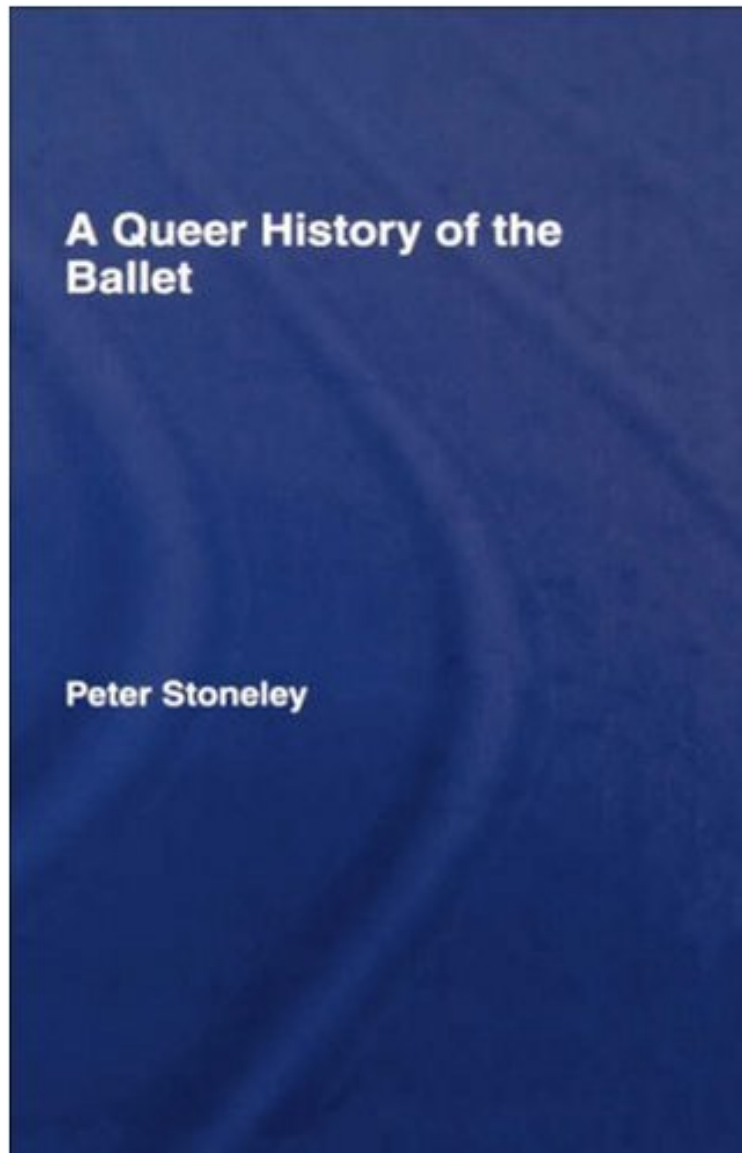


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## A Queer History of the Ballet

*Peter Stoneley*

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**Peter Stoneley : A Queer History of the Ballet** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Queer History of the Ballet:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking exploration of queerness and/in ballet By Critical thinker I found this to be a very engaged and thoughtful book on possible relationships between ballet and queerness. Professor Stoneley writes accessibly and in a jargon-free way, but broaches complex issues and questions about relationships between ballet and sexual identities. The book negotiates a range of issues which might allow queerness to be read specifically in the light of ballet, and vice-versa, including ideas about vision, the body,

performance, biography, and community. In some cases the breadth and range of topics covered means that perhaps not all connections and perspectives always link-up or cohere, but that, for me, does not detract from the stimulating and thought-provoking nature of the book.

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 Prejocaj, this is an essential book in the study of ballet and queer history.

'An interesting and thought provoking read for anyone interested in an alternative version of ballet history.' - *Dancing Times*  
'A wealth of biographical knowledge and creative thought... [a] precise study of ballet's origins.' - *The Gay and Lesbian*  
'Including fantastic photographs and an extensive list of references, this book is valuable as a reference work as well as a critical study... Highly recommended.' - *CHOICE*  
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