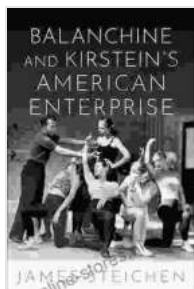


# Balanchine and Kirstein: An American Enterprise

## The Early Years

George Balanchine was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1904. He began studying ballet at the age of eight, and by the time he was a teenager, he was one of the most promising young dancers in the world. In 1924, he joined the Ballets Russes de Diaghilev, one of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world. With the Ballets Russes, Balanchine choreographed his first ballets, including the iconic "Serenade."



## Balanchine and Kirstein's American Enterprise

by James Steichen

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Lincoln Kirstein was born in Rochester, New York, in 1907. He was a precocious child who loved the arts. In his early twenties, Kirstein traveled to Paris, where he met Balanchine. The two men quickly became friends, and they began to discuss their vision for a new American ballet company.

## **The School of American Ballet**

In 1934, Balanchine and Kirstein founded the School of American Ballet (SAB). SAB was the first professional ballet school in the United States, and it quickly became one of the most prestigious in the world. SAB's mission was to train young American dancers in the classical ballet tradition. The school's faculty included some of the most renowned ballet teachers in the world, and its students went on to dance with some of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world.

## **The New York City Ballet**

In 1948, Balanchine and Kirstein founded the New York City Ballet (NYCB). NYCB quickly became one of the most important ballet companies in the world. The company's repertoire included a wide range of ballets, from classical masterpieces to contemporary works. NYCB's dancers were some of the most talented in the world, and the company's productions were known for their high quality and artistry.

## **Lincoln Center**

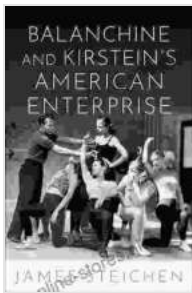
In 1964, NYCB moved into its new home at Lincoln Center. Lincoln Center was a major arts complex that included a new opera house, a concert hall, and a theater. NYCB's move to Lincoln Center was a major milestone in the company's history. It gave NYCB a permanent home and helped to establish New York City as a major center of dance.

## **The Legacy of Balanchine and Kirstein**

Balanchine and Kirstein were two of the most important figures in the history of American ballet. Their partnership revolutionized the art form and helped to establish New York City as a major center of dance. Their legacy

continues today through the School of American Ballet and the New York City Ballet.

Balanchine and Kirstein were two visionaries who changed the face of American ballet. Their partnership was a success story, and their legacy continues to inspire and influence dancers and audiences around the world.

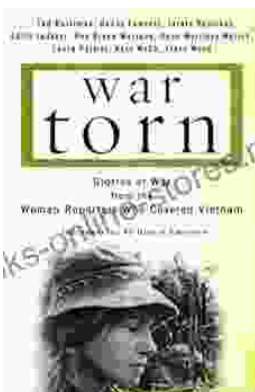


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