

(Download) Private View: Inside Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theatre

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John Fraser

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John Fraser : Private View: Inside Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theatre before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Private View: Inside Baryshnikov's American Ballet Theatre:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Private ViewBy gumby4yogaGreat pictures. This shares more of Baryshnikov's everyday life more than any other book that I have written. He shares great backstage pictures.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If You are a Fan of Baryshnikov, ABT or BalletBy Barb4I found the book very interesting. I would recommend it. It was great to see the private side of Baryshnikov.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting and well written.By Classic Opera LoverVery interesting and well written.

This beautiful book is filled with many black and white artist quality photos of Baryshnikov and his dancers, during his tenure as head of the American Ballet Theatre. He was at his prime, and the photos are particularly beautiful. Most are candid, backstage or in rehearsal, and you can see his grace even when he is standing around in sweats watching others. The combination of photos and great backstage stories gives this book a place of honor in any dance collection. Fraser offers a tantalizing glimpse of the difficulties of a dancer's day, and astutely assesses the politics of artistic decision-making. There are more than 100 photographs by longtime Life photographer Arnold showing us dancers as people, not merely moving bodies.

From Publishers WeeklyFraser, a Canadian journalist who was the first to interview Baryshnikov after his 1974

defection, walks an uncertain line between flattery and scrutiny in this account of a year in the life of ABT. His verbal portraits of the artists are frequently refreshing and always genial. But the author too often yields to the blandishments of hyperbole: Baryshnikov's "whole being is a mass of contradictions. An undeniable and healthy-sized ego is constantly undermined by his capacity for self-mockery and astonishing humility. A definitive and occasionally ostentatious affection for expensive things and for very rich people regularly jars with a relentless search for solitude and simplicity." Guiding readers through rehearsals, new productions and a national tour, Fraser offers a tantalizing glimpse of the difficulties of a dancer's day, and astutely assesses the politics of artistic decision-making though he grinds his axe too vigorously. More than 100 photographs by longtime Life photographer Arnold show us dancers as people, not merely moving bodies. BOMC alternate. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Fraser was a dance critic writing for the Toronto Globe and Mail in June 1974, when Mikhail Baryshnikov, the much heralded Soviet Wunderkind, defected. Fraser became friends with the dancer then, though this book is a result of his research over 13 months in 1986 and 1987. Neither a biography nor a history of the company, this is a perceptive behind-the-scenes look at the workings of one major ballet company. The reader learns how casting decisions are made, touring schedules are planned, choreography is selected, publicity is developed. The hectic, unpredictable, unstable, highly charged atmosphere of the company is revealed. Fraser's writing style is clear and witty as good as his reportorial abilities. Recommended for all but the smallest public and college libraries. Joan Stahl, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.