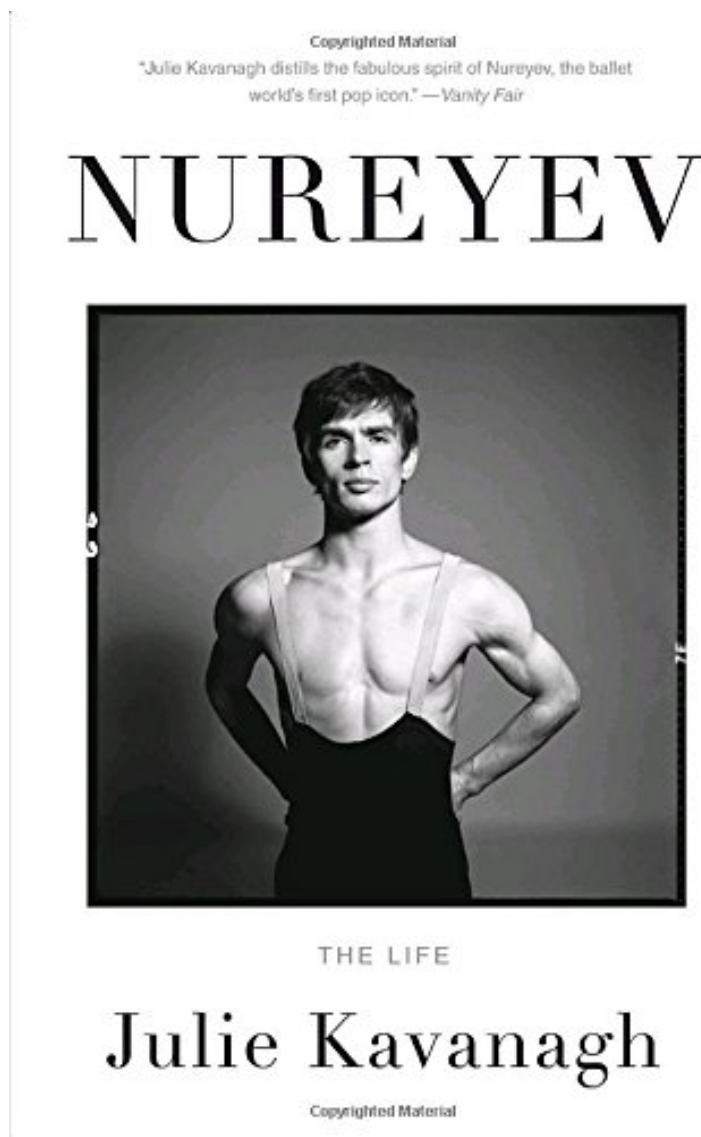


(Ebook free) Nureyev: The Life

## Nureyev: The Life

*Julie Kavanagh*

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#1285177 in Books Julie Kavanagh 2008-11-11 2008-11-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.20 x 1.66 x 6.06l, 2.33 #File Name: 0375704728848 pages Nureyev The Life | File size: 51.Mb

**Julie Kavanagh : Nureyev: The Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nureyev: The Life:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive but difficult to follow By sharon\_beth\_long Although this biography does not add too much new to Solway's (I do not know why Solway's book is not listed in this book's bibliography) it is well researched and comprehensive and had a nice writing style. However for me the purpose in reading biography is to understand how a person developed. The middle of it, that is, the part about Nureyev's working adulthood, is not linear but thematic. The author discusses events concerning topics like filming Nureyev's

dancing or his dealings with a particular person that happened ten years apart in the same paragraph and sometimes even in the same sentence. Dates when Nureyev was doing certain things or when certain things happened to him need to be made much clearer. We do not need a datebook of every tour but it is hard to follow how things developed in his life and work when the narrative is not linear and dates are not always stated. I agree with the others that there was not enough analysis of various aspects of Nureyev's life and his motivations in spite of the length of the book. A biography does not have to be a complete psychological analysis but Nureyev himself was pretty self analytic in spite of the fact that (as I read elsewhere) that he never did psychoanalysis because he believed that part of his strength lied in being impulsive and not second guessing himself. As a psychiatric nurse it seems to me that he had a very narcissistic personality and had some manic depressive tendencies. I would not have been surprised if he were also on amphetamines which in these days were not considered illegal substances and this would account for his mood swings as well as excess energy. In spite of the length of the book I believe that I actually got more insight of Nureyev's personality and motivations from Rudi Van Dantzig's memoir of him. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Incredible Nureyev By Wanda Garofalo As I already had a tattered paperback copy of this book, I purchased this one as a replacement. When I finished reading this book in 2008, I was astonished by this incredibly complicated man and the story of his (short) life's journey, but I was not sure that I liked him. I was fascinated by him, so I proceeded to read all (except those publications not translated into English) I could about him. I have also had the pleasure of meeting several people who knew him personally. While they do not dispute Ms. Kavanagh's narrative, they feel that her concentration on his questionable escapades obscures his great art, his talent, his enormous contribution to his discipline and many other positive sides to his personality. They loved him, as did many wonderful people. Apparently, he wasn't always a "bad" boy. The book is long and more of that length could have been devoted to his many triumphs. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read due its truly describing the risk taking By Carol Davids A great read due its truly describing the risk taking, persistence, and absolute devotion of a genius and his love for ballet. His mission to restore the ballet in its many forms to all ages all over the world was herculean. Kavanagh allows the reader to feel well deserved empathy toward Nureyev and also respect for his dedication and passion without "glossing over" his humanity.

Rudolf Nureyev, one of the most iconic dancers of the twentieth century, had it all: beauty, genius, charm, passion, and sex appeal. No other dancer of our time has generated the same excitement, for both men and women, on or off the stage. In this superb biography, Julie Kavanagh deftly brings us through the professional and personal milestones of Nureyev's life and career: his education at the Kirov school in Leningrad; his controversial defection from the USSR in 1961; his long-time affair with the Danish dancer Erik Bruhn; his legendary partnership with Margot Fonteyn at the Royal Ballet in London. We see his fiery collaborations with almost all the major living choreographers including Ashton, Balanchine, Robbins, Graham, and Taylor. And we see Nureyev as he reinvigorated the Paris Ballet Opera in the early 1980s before his death from AIDS complications in 1993. Nureyev: The Life is the most intimate, revealing, and dramatic picture we have ever had of this dazzling, complex figure.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . The first international ballet superstar, Rudolf Nureyev (1938-1993) made headlines when he defected from Russia in 1961. His onstage partnership with the Royal Ballet's ballerina assoluta Margot Fonteyn received legendary acclaim. Formerly a Kirov star, trained by the famed ballet teacher Alexander Pushkin and inspired by Nijinsky and Stanislavsky, he shocked and seduced the West with his charismatic stage presence and his passionate, sometimes rough-edged dancing. British ballet critic Kavanagh (Secret Muses: The Life of Frederick Ashton) captures his phenomenal work ethic, his hunger for new dance experiences (with Jerome Robbins, Martha Graham and Paul Taylor) and his flamboyant life. Her writing style is both readable and sophisticated, showing Nureyev's wit and generosity alongside his carelessness and cruelty. She dissects ballet arcana like the Bournonville and Vaganova techniques but doesn't stint on celebrity dish. Nureyev's affair with the celebrated Danish dancer Erik Bruhn, his desperate need to dance for George Balanchine and his competition with the younger ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov are detailed, alongside his relationships with Jackie Kennedy, Andy Warhol and Mick Jagger. Kavanagh presents a definitive and moving portrait of one of the 20th century's most hypnotic, ruthless and hedonistic artists. Photos. (Oct. 2) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Julie Kavanagh knows the dance world, and it shows. The London-based journalist and former ballerina previously wrote a prize-winning biography of choreographer Frederick Ashton, and she fills Nureyev: The Life with piercing insights into both the life of her subject and the turbulent world of professional ballet. Critics loved her riveting storytelling, and though the Christian Science Monitor complained that Kavanagh dwells too long on the dancers experiences in the "brutal anonymity of 70s gay culture" and his passing from AIDS, they generally praised her refusal to sugarcoat any aspect of Nureyev's life and personality. Overall, Kavanagh offers a compelling portrait of a complicated man in the tone of "a mother who knows her child's faults all too well and yet looks upon him with affection" (San Francisco Chronicle). Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. Julie Kavanagh distills the fabulous spirit of Nureyev, the ballet world's first pop icon. Vanity Fair Ferociously concrete, ambitious, profligate, shocking

and soaring. . . . Nureyev is easily the best biography of the year. The Philadelphia Inquirer The definitive biography of ballet's greatest star whose ego was as supersized as his talent. Tina Brown A treasure trove for those intrigued by Nureyev the dancer, filled with thoughtful reflections on his technique, details of his roles, and of his encounters with ballet greats. Seattle Times Kavanagh chronicles [Nureyev] with even-mindedness and original research and a mastery of detail. . . . And that is what we get: not a tell-all, but a tell-everything. The New York Observer