

[Download] Out of Step: A Life in Ballet

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Alida Belair

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#9712964 in Books 1994-03Original language:English 9.50 x 6.50 x .75l, #File Name: 0522845614304 pages | File size: 60.Mb

Alida Belair : Out of Step: A Life in Ballet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out of Step: A Life in Ballet:

'You have a child prodigy, Mrs Glasbeek.' With these words Madame Xenia Borovansky sealed Alida Belair's destiny in the world of ballet. Three years later, at the age of eleven, Alida became a celebrity in her role as Clara in the Borovansky Ballet's production of the Nutcracker Suite. This is the story of a gifted young ballerina's determination to perfect her art - a determination that took Alida from Melbourne to the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, and on to leading roles with prestigious companies in London and New York. It is also the story of a vulnerable young girl's struggle to come to terms with the disappointment of being no longer the child prodigy, and her search to reconcile her physically demanding art with her emotional needs and intellectual development. A protracted battle against anorexia, the loneliness of living out of a suitcase, and the growing realization that there is a world outside the cloisters of the ballet, all set Alida on a collision course with the strange, mute art form to which she sacrificed so much. With her satirical eye and human warmth, Alida brings to life a host of characters in a most extraordinary world. Hilarious and moving by turns, this is an unforgettable book.

'One of the most absorbing autobiographical narratives of 1994.' -- Peter Ross, ABC TelevisionAbout the AuthorAlida

Belair was born in 1944 in the south of France, where her parents were in hiding from the Nazis. Her family emigrated to Australia in 1949. She began studying ballet at the age of six, and joined the Borovansky Ballet Academy a year later. At the age of eleven she was chosen to play her first major role, with the Borovansky Ballet with whom she toured Australia over the following four years. In 1962, at the age of eighteen, Alida travelled to Moscow, where she became the first Australian dancer to study with the Bolshoi Ballet Company. After her studies were interrupted by the Cuban missile crisis she went on to London, where she became a guest artist with the London ballet, the principal ballerina with Ballet Rambert. In 1966 she moved to the United States, where she danced with several prominent ballet companies including the American Ballet Theatre.