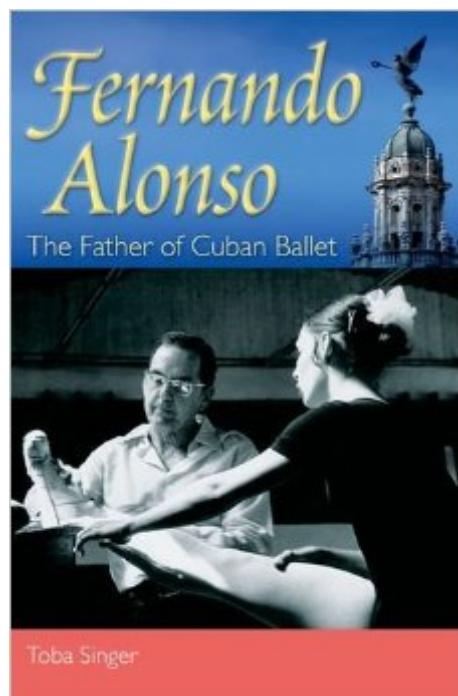


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Fernando Alonso: The Father Of Cuban Ballet



Synopsis

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida (March 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813044022

ISBN-13: 978-0813044026

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Full Disclosure: (1) I've known Toba Singer, although not that well, for around 40 years. I knew her as a political activist, and hadn't even known that she danced (or had long forgotten it). (2) Toba got in touch with me for advice on the index, and I volunteered to prepare it. (3) I knew a lot about Cuba and almost nothing about ballet when I agreed to do this, but learned quite a bit about ballet in the process of indexing the book. This book is about many things: It's about three remarkable people; Fernando Alonso, his former wife, the ballerina assoluta Alicia Alonso, much better known than he is, and about Fernando's brother, Alberto Alonso. The three of them laid the basis for serious ballet in Cuba, but before the revolution, the funds were lacking to create ballet schools to train dancers (what Fernando Alonso is best at), and all the other things necessary to have professional ballet. But then it's also about Laura Alonso, the daughter of Fernando and Alicia, who now heads a ballet company in Cuba. And about many of the other students of Fernando Alonso, who play important roles as dancers in Cuba and in other countries. The book is to a great extent based on interviews with Fernando Alonso, his daughter, and with a number of his students, as well as a letter by Alicia Alonso. Fernando Alonso is a remarkable man; his interest in science is as important to Cuban ballet as his interest in art. In fact, there's very little that he's not interested in and knowledgeable about. The small island of Cuba was always a "world power" in terms of music and dance (see

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