The Nuances and Intricacies for Becoming a Successful Ballet Dancer by Randy Collins

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Many of us aspire to become good dancers. Some of us aim a bit higher and wish to become successful ballet dancers. Let us first try to learn something about ballet. Ballet is a performance dance that originated in Italy sometime in the 15th Century. It was modified as a dance form in France and Russia. It used to be performed for an audience seated on all three sides on galleries and tiers. It is performed to the accompaniment of classical music. There are exclusive ballet schools all around the world that teach various techniques in which they are specialized. Each region would have its cultural imprint on the dance form and thus several unique forms have come into being. The genre of the dance is very hard to master and requires patience, practice and endurance.

The dance form is more female centric with Romantic Ballets or Ballet Blanc has a female dancer with her fluid, precision, acrobatic movements entrancing the viewers. The other forms are called Expressionist and neoclassical ballet. Classical Ballet is the most methodical of all ballet styles and it religiously follows traditional ballet technique that has been nurtured over a period of time. However, there are variations depending on specific areas like French Ballets, Danish Bournoville Ballet, Italian and Russian Ballet. All these forms are based on the teachings of Carlo Blasis. He was an Italian dancer, choreographer and theoretician who lived in the latter part of the 19th Century. He was running a dance academy where practice sessions would run into long hours with infrequent breaks. The well known styles of ballet today are the Paris Opera Ballet School Method, the Russian Method, the Danish Method and the Balanchine Method or the New York City Ballet Method.

Neoclassical ballet is comparatively less rigid than classical and as it uses traditional vocabulary. It is actually a modified version of the 19th Century Imperial Russian dance form. The detailed narrative and theatrical settings have been done away with as it was cumbersome to create the settings and props, which was generally a tedious and expensive affair. George Balanchine brought many modern dancers in to dance in his company the New York City Ballet. One such famous dancer was Paul Taylor who was a successful choreographer who was known for his vibrancy, and was able to depict war, spirituality, morality, romance, mortality and comedy. He dared to portray characters that would have been considered taboo even today.

Another famous dancer was Mikhail Baryshinkov a Russian and American dancer and actor. He promoted modern dance and joined the American Ballet Theater. He went on to become a successful actor on stage, cinema and television. Another famous dancer Twyla Tharp joined Taylor's dance company and gave many memorable performances. She successfully choreographed push comes to shove featuring Mikhail Baryshinkov and is considered to be the best example of crossover ballet. Prior to this she had choreographed Deuce Coupe to the music of The Beach Boys for the Joffrey Ballet.

Contemporary Ballet is a form that has the influence of both classical ballet and modern dance. The technique and body control from classical ballet and permits a better range of movement which is free flowing. The influence of modern dance is more profound and this style is generally danced barefoot. Aspirants who wish to learn ballet need to keep in mind that punishing practice and utter devotion are essential. A natural flair for dancing and the affinity can be either spotted in children at a very young age itself. However, for a determined and passionate person age or affinity is definitely not going to matter.

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Randy Collins is a freelance author and has a keen interest in various classical forms of dance. He keenly watches related programs that are aired by popular service providers like a Dish TV Packages.

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