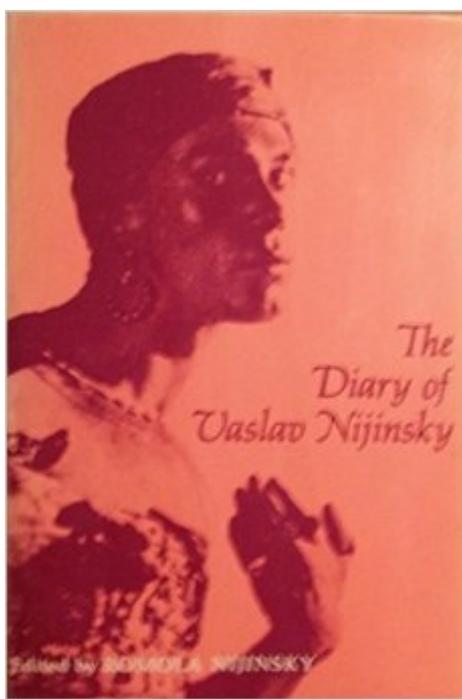


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The Diary Of Vaslav Nijinsky,



Synopsis

Vaslav Nijinsky (1889-1950) was a Russian (Ukrainian) ballet dancer and choreographer of Polish descent, cited as the greatest male dancer of the early 20th century. In his prime, Nijinsky was the most celebrated man in Western ballet--a virtuoso and a dramatic dancer such as European and American audiences had never seen before. After his triumphs in such works as *The Specter of the Rose* and *Petrouchka*, he set out to make ballets of his own, and with his *Afternoon of a Faun* and *The Rite of Spring*, created within a year of each other, he became ballet's first modernist choreographer. Then, still in his twenties, he began to go mad. For six weeks in early 1919, as his tie to reality was giving way, Nijinsky kept a diary--the only sustained daily record we have, by a major artist, of the experience of entering psychosis. In some entries he is filled with hope. He is God he will save the world. In other entries, he falls into a black despair. He is dogged by sexual obsessions and grief over World War I. Furthermore, he is afraid that he is going insane. The diary was first published in 1936.

Book Information

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