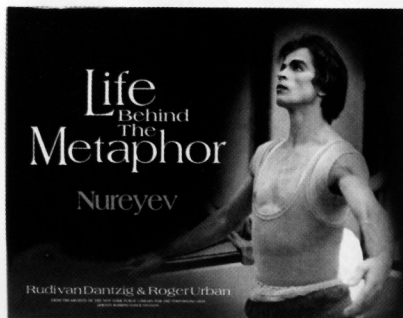
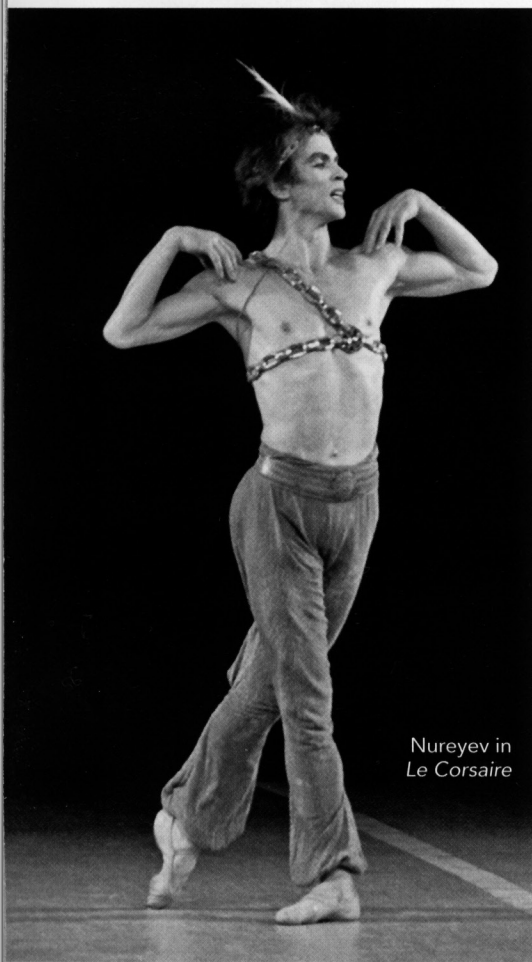


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Life Behind the Metaphor: Rudolf Nureyev and the Dutch National Ballet

Photographs by Roger Urban, text by Rudi van Dantzig and Roger Urban. Lexington, MA: Nureyev Legacy Project. 2007. 128 pp. 82 photos. www.nureyevlegacy.org, \$120.

The Dutch National Ballet arrived in the United States in the summer of 1978 with the brightest of all guest stars, Rudolf Nureyev. As the luggage came off the carousel, artistic director Rudi van Dantzig felt a tap on his shoulder and an earnest young American named Roger Urban talked his way into photographing

the company's tour. The idea for *Life Behind the Metaphor* was born.

The black-and-white photos that appear in this collection have never been published. Rehearsal shots of the company, moments between Nureyev and van Dantzig, and blockbuster performances of *Le Corsaire* and Toer van Schayk's *Afternoon of a Faun* have the distinction of being personally approved by the man himself. While Nureyev inevitably shines with his glorious ballon and charismatic looks, his sound bites are also pungent. Among other gems, there's Nureyev insisting that the photographer never crop out the stage floor from under his soaring jeté. His quotations also reveal periods of darkness and his tumultuous relationship with van Dantzig.

Equally remarkable is van Dantzig's unaffected prose. His musings on being airborne are framed by shots of dancers soaring off a diving board, arms outstretched, toes pointed.

All proceeds of this beautifully produced book go to benefit The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Dance Division. —Kina Poon

DECEMBER 2007

Roger Urban, Courtesy Nureyev Legacy Project

Purchase *Life Behind the Metaphor* today at
www.nureyevlegacy.org