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George Balanchine

The Ballet Maker

Robert Gottlieb

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George Balanchine's life story is a fascinating journey—from his near accidental enrollment in St. Petersburg's Imperial School of Ballet to Diaghilev's Ballets Russes to his emigration to the United States in 1933, and eventually to the New York City Ballet. As his fame spread, Balanchine's ideas revolutionized classical dance and expanded the art in theater and cinema. His personal life was as highly charged as his professional life, involving five dancer-wives.

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Author Bio

Robert Gottlieb has been editor in chief at Simon and Schuster, Alfred Knopf, and *The New Yorker*. Books he has edited during his almost 50 years in publishing range from *Catch-22* to *My Life* by Bill Clinton, and include, in the dance field, books by Margot Fonteyn, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Natalia Makarova, Paul Taylor, and Lincoln Kirstein. For many years he was associated with New York City Ballet as a member of the board of directors and as an unofficial part of management. Currently he writes literary criticism for the *New York Review of Books*, *New York Times Book Review*, and *The New Yorker*, and is the dance critic for the *New York Observer*.