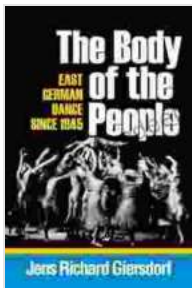


# East German Dance Since 1945: Studies in Dance History

East German dance, like the country itself, has a rich and complex history that is inextricably linked to the political and social events that have shaped the region. In the aftermath of World War II, East Germany emerged as a socialist state, and this had a profound impact on the development of dance within its borders.



## The Body of the People: East German Dance since 1945 (Studies in Dance History) by Jens Richard Giersdorf

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3402 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 248 pages



## The Early Years: Socialist Realism and Ausdruckstanz

In the early years of East German dance, the prevailing artistic doctrine was socialist realism. This ideology emphasized the need for art to be accessible to the masses and to reflect the values of the socialist state. As a result, many dance works during this period were characterized by their focus on everyday life and the experiences of ordinary people.

Alongside socialist realism, the influence of Ausdruckstanz (expressionist dance) was also strong in East Germany. This style of dance, which originated in Germany in the early 20th century, emphasized the expression of inner emotions and the exploration of the human body's potential for movement.

### **The Dresden Semper Opera Ballet and the Leipzig Ballet**

Two of the most important institutions in the development of East German dance were the Dresden Semper Opera Ballet and the Leipzig Ballet. Both companies were founded in the early 1950s and quickly became renowned for their high artistic standards and their commitment to innovative choreography.

The Dresden Semper Opera Ballet was particularly known for its productions of classical ballets, such as Swan Lake and The Nutcracker. The company also premiered many new works by East German choreographers, including works by Hannes Kilian and Gerhard Bohner.

The Leipzig Ballet, on the other hand, was more experimental in its approach. The company frequently commissioned new works from young choreographers and was not afraid to push the boundaries of traditional ballet.

### **The Palucca School Dresden**

In addition to the Dresden Semper Opera Ballet and the Leipzig Ballet, the Palucca School Dresden was another important center for East German dance. Founded in 1925, the school provided training in both classical ballet and modern dance. Many of the most famous East German dancers, including Christine Schorn, received their training at the Palucca School.

## Contemporary East German Dance

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, East German dance underwent a period of significant change. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, East German dancers were suddenly exposed to a wider range of artistic influences.

As a result, contemporary East German dance is characterized by its diversity and its willingness to experiment with new forms and styles. Many East German dancers have gone on to achieve international success, and the region continues to be a vibrant and innovative center for dance.

East German dance has a rich and complex history that has been shaped by political, social, and artistic factors. From the early days of socialist realism to the experimentalism of the present day, East German dance has continuously evolved and adapted to the changing times.

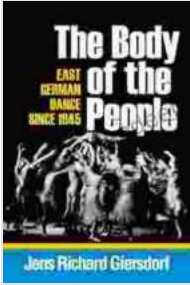
Today, East German dance is a vibrant and diverse art form that is enjoyed by people all over the world. The region's dancers, choreographers, and companies continue to push the boundaries of dance and to create new and exciting works that captivate audiences.

### Image Credits

- Image of the Dresden Semper Opera Ballet (Public domain)
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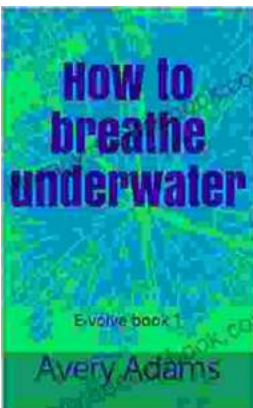


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