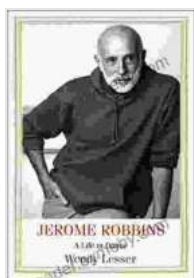


# Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance, A Jewish Life

Jerome Robbins, one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, was also a proud Jew. His work explored themes of Jewish identity, culture, and history, and he was a passionate advocate for social justice.



## Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance (Jewish Lives)

by Wendy Lesser

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2139 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 216 pages



Robbins was born in New York City in 1918 to Jewish immigrants from Russia. He began studying dance at an early age, and by the time he was 19, he had already choreographed his first Broadway show. In the years that followed, Robbins would go on to create some of the most iconic dances in American history, including "Fancy Free" (1944), "West Side Story" (1957), and "Fiddler on the Roof" (1964).

Robbins' work was often infused with Jewish themes. In "Fancy Free," for example, he created a trio of sailors on shore leave who are searching for

love. The sailors are all Jewish, and their experiences reflect the struggles and joys of Jewish life in America. In "West Side Story," Robbins explored the tensions between white and Puerto Rican gangs in New York City. The show features a number of Jewish characters, including Tony, the lead male character. Tony is a complex and sympathetic character, and his story reflects Robbins' own experiences as a Jew in America.

In addition to his work as a choreographer, Robbins was also a passionate advocate for social justice. He was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality, and he marched in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965. Robbins also used his art to promote social change. In his ballet "Moves," for example, he explored the issue of nuclear disarmament. The ballet was a powerful indictment of the nuclear arms race, and it helped to raise awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Jerome Robbins was a brilliant choreographer and a passionate advocate for social justice. His work explored themes of Jewish identity, culture, and history, and he was a powerful force for change in the world. Robbins' legacy continues to inspire dancers and activists today.

## Further Reading

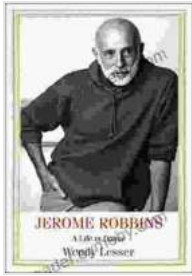
- Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance
- Jerome Robbins, Choreographer, Dies at 79
- Jerome Robbins: A giant of American dance

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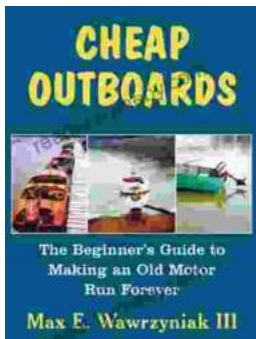
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