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Nota di contenuto	The early dance manuals and the structure of ballet : a basis for Italian, French and English ballet / Jennifer Nevile -- Ballet de cour / Marina Nordera -- English masques / Barbara Ravelhofer -- The baroque body / Mark Franko -- Choreography and narrative : the ballet d'action of the eighteenth century / Dorion Weickmann -- The rise of ballet technique and training : the professionalism of an art form / Sandra Noll Hammond -- The making of history : John Weaver and the enlightenment / Tim Blanning -- Jean-Georges Noverre : dance and reform / Judith Chazin-Benahum -- The French Revolution and its spectacles / Inge Baxmann -- Romantic ballet in France : 1830-1850 / Sarah Davis Cordova -- Deadly sylphs and decent mermaids : the women in the Danish romantic world of August Bournonville / Anne Middleboe Christensen -- The orchestra as translator : French nineteenth-century ballet / Marian E. Smith -- Russian ballet in the age of Petipa / Lynn Garafola -- Opening the door to a fairy-tale world : Tchaikovsky's ballet music / Therese Hurley -- The romantic ballet and its critics : dance goes public / Lucia Ruprecht -- The soul of the shoe / Marion Kant -- The ballet avant-garde I : the Ballet Suedois and its modernist concept / Erik Naslund -- The ballet avant-garde II : the 'new' Russian and Soviet dance in the twentieth century Tim Scholl -- George Balanchine / Matilde Butkas -- Balanchine and the

deconstruction of classicism / Juliet Bellow -- The Nutcracker : a cultural icon / Jennifer Fisher -- From Swan Lake to Red Girl's Regiment : ballet's sinicisation / Zheng Yangwen -- Giselle in a Cuban accent / Lester Tome -- European ballet in the age of ideologies / Marion Kant.

Sommario/riassunto

Ballet is a paradox: much loved but little studied. It is a beautiful fairy tale; detached from its origins and unrelated to the men and women who created it. Yet ballet has a history, little known and rarely presented. These great works have dark sides and moral ambiguities, not always nor immediately visible. The daring and challenging quality of ballet as well as its perceived 'safe' nature is not only one of its fascinations but one of the intriguing questions to be explored in this Companion. The essays reveal the conception, intent and underlying meaning of ballets and recreate the historical reality in which they emerged. The reader will find new and unexpected aspects of ballet, its history and its aesthetics, the evolution of plot and narrative, new insights into the reality of training, the choice of costume and the transformation of an old art in a modern world.
