

The Great Choreographers

New Course with Kathryn Roszak

Syllabus and Guests Subject to Change.

We will view highlights of choreographers' work during class and we will be joined by special guests from San Francisco Ballet will discuss creating roles in the great choreographer's works. As a complement to the course, on March 21 at noon, Ms. Roszak gives a gallery talk at BAMPFA on their exhibit "Get Dancin'" featuring works from the museum collection inspired by dance.

Class 1:

Classicists and Radicals: The Origins of Ballet and Modern Dance:

We will have an overview of the origins of ballet with Marius Petipa and of modern dance with Nijinsky, Nijinska and Isadora Duncan. We will learn of the important innovations in dance and how they relate and influence other art forms. We'll learn how Petipa created the great story ballets such as "The Sleeping Beauty" and how he crafted dances for the corps de ballet (French for "the body of the ballet). We'll learn about the Italian ballerinas such as Marie Taglioni who created dances and even fashioned the entire technique of dancing on pointe. We'll preview the beginning of Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes and his encouragement of radical creativity from choreographers, composers, and visual artists with productions that revolutionized the dance world.

Class 2:

Breaking Free: Nijinsky, Nijinska, and Isadora Duncan

Though Nijinsky and Nijinska danced in Petipa's ballets, they broke free patterning radical new dances inspired by some of the great composers of the time such as Igor Stravinsky. Serge Diaghilev revolutionized the dance world with stunning choreography commissions that changed the world. Meanwhile, the American dancer Isadora Duncan rebelled against the strictures of ballet and took the world by storm by liberating the body with a new dance technique inspired by the ancient Greeks. We will learn how these choreographers shaped the dance we see today. We'll hear from guest dancer Ken Kirkland about dancing in Nijinska's "Les Noces."

Class 3:

Legendary Innovator: Martha Graham

Martha Graham forged a new dance technique and dramatic, choreography delving into the psyche. In Graham's dance floorwork took importance and

Graham collaborated with sculptor Isamu Noguchi and with composers such as Aaron Copeland to create original dances that are now iconic. We will learn how Graham influenced such choreographers as Pail Taylor and Alvin Ailey.

Class 4

Reinventing Ballet: George Balanchine

We will learn how choreographer George Balanchine was influenced by his early years with Diaghilev's Ballet Russes creating masterworks such as "Apollo" to Igor Stravinsky's score. Balanchine reinvented ballet into powerful, abstract language opening the door to theatrical dance genius Jerome Robbins. Guest dancer Russell Murphy will talk about creating roles in Balanchine works such as "The Four Temperaments" and "Prodigal Son," and also about dancing in Robbins' "In the Night."

Class 5

American Musicals: Robbins and Fosse and more

The musical is a distinctly American art form and we will look at two choreographers: Jerome Robbins and his contributions on Broadway including "West Side Story" and we'll look at Bob Foss and his choreography for stage and film. We may also look at other musical choreographers such as Gene Kelly, Agnes DeMille, and Twyla Tharp.

Class 6:

Great Choreographers Today

Who are the great choreographers of today? We will look at artists such as Mark Morris, and Pina Bausch who have influenced the dance world through their unique choreographic approach. We will look at dance writers including Mindy Aloff, author of "Dance in America" (2018) and learn how we can identify and define great choreography.

Kathryn Roszak trained on Ford Foundation Scholarship at Balanchine's School of

American Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. She was a Soloist with San Francisco Opera Ballet; she has choreographed/taught for San Francisco

Ballet and San Francisco Opera. She produces dance films and is founder of the Women Ballet Choreographers/Composers Residency held at Djerassi Resident Artists Program in California.