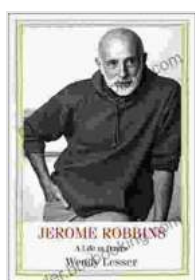


# Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance and a Jewish Legacy

Jerome Robbins (1918-1998) was an American dancer, choreographer, and director who left an indelible mark on the world of dance. His groundbreaking work revolutionized Broadway and Hollywood, and his unique style continues to inspire artists today.

## Early Life and Training

Jerome Wilson Rabinowitz was born in New York City on October 11, 1918. His parents were Russian-Jewish immigrants, and he grew up in a modest home in the Bronx. From a young age, Robbins showed a natural talent for dance and began taking lessons at the age of ten. He studied with some of the leading dance teachers of the time, including Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman.



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

by Wendy Lesser

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

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Print length : 216 pages

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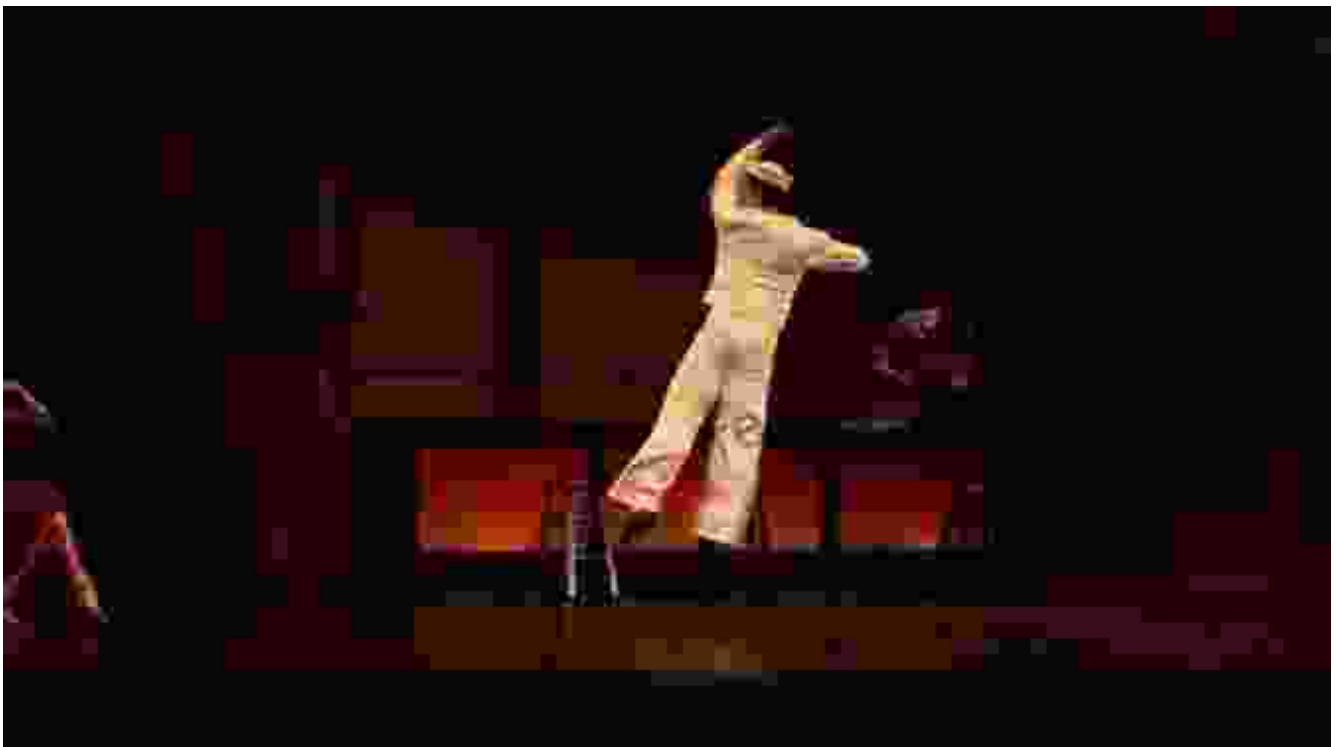


## Broadway Breakthrough

Robbins made his Broadway debut in 1940 in the musical "Keep the Home Fires Burning." His choreography was an instant sensation, and he quickly established himself as one of the most innovative and sought-after choreographers in the business. In 1944, he created the iconic choreography for "On the Town," which featured a joyous and exuberant style that became his signature. He followed this success with "Fancy Free" (1946) and "Billion Dollar Baby" (1946), further solidifying his reputation as a master choreographer.

### **Hollywood Success**

In the 1950s, Robbins turned his attention to Hollywood. He choreographed several classic films, including "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (1954), "The King and I" (1956), and "West Side Story" (1961). His work in these films showcased his versatility and his ability to create memorable and emotionally resonant dance sequences.



## **Jewish Heritage and Identity**

Throughout his life, Robbins remained deeply connected to his Jewish heritage. His work often explored themes of Jewish identity and experience, particularly in his later years. In 1964, he choreographed "Fiddler on the Roof," a musical adaptation of Sholem Aleichem's stories that became one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history. Robbins also choreographed "Dybbuk" (1974), a dance-drama based on the classic Yiddish play.

Robbins's Jewish heritage influenced his work in many ways. His use of Jewish folk melodies and rhythms, as well as his exploration of Jewish themes, gave his choreography a unique and authentic voice. He believed that dance was a powerful medium for expressing the human experience, and he used it to tell stories that resonated with audiences of all backgrounds.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Jerome Robbins died on July 29, 1998, at the age of 79. He left behind a legacy of groundbreaking dance that continues to inspire and amaze audiences worldwide. His choreography has been hailed for its originality, its emotional depth, and its enduring power. Robbins was a true visionary who revolutionized the world of dance, and his work remains an important part of the American cultural landscape.

In addition to his numerous awards and honors, the Jerome Robbins Dance Division at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts houses a vast collection of his work, including scripts, photographs, and videos. The division also hosts exhibitions and educational programs dedicated to preserving and showcasing his legacy.

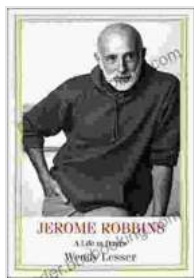
Jerome Robbins was a true master of dance. His innovative choreography revolutionized Broadway and Hollywood, and his work continues to inspire artists and audiences alike. His connection to his Jewish heritage added a unique and authentic voice to his work, and his legacy as one of the greatest choreographers of all time is secure.

To learn more about the extraordinary life and artistry of Jerome Robbins, read "Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance" by Deborah Jowitt. This acclaimed biography provides a comprehensive and fascinating account of Robbins's career and his profound impact on the world of dance.

## Call to Action

Free Download your copy of "Jerome Robbins: A Life in Dance" today and delve into the fascinating world of this legendary choreographer. Discover the stories behind his groundbreaking work, his unique Jewish heritage, and his lasting legacy as an artist.

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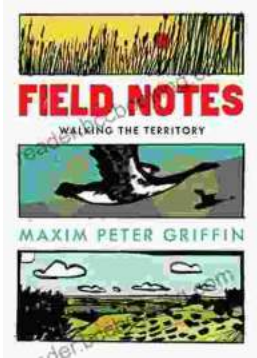
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