

Week 5: A HISTORY OF BALLET (Spring 2022)

The Ballets Russes

An itinerant ballet company based in Paris that performed between 1909 and 1929 throughout Europe and on tours to North and South America. It focused on artistic collaborations, presenting the form, not as a relic of the past, but a vibrant art happening in the present.



Ballet Russes I, 1912 (Oil on Canvas), by August Macke

World events Timeline

1898 - Spanish-American War Signals Growing U.S. Ambition on World Stage

1900 - Art Nouveau, art style with repeated designs of floral and geometric patterns

1903 - Wright brothers made the first successful man-powered airplane flight

1905 - Japan Gains International Reputation With Victory in Russo-Japanese War

1905 - Fauvism and Expressionism Art

1910 - Cubism and Primitivism Art

1914 - World War I

1914 - Panama Canal Transforms U.S. and Global Economy

1917 - Bolshevik Revolution Leads to Birth of Soviet Union

1922: British Empire Shrinks

1923 - Dada Art

1929: Wall Street Crashes



The Dying Swan 1907 by Mikhail Fokine.

Music by Camille Saint-Saëns.

Created for Anna Pavlova.

Premiere: St. Petersburg, Russia.

[Anna Pavlova as The Swan](#) 2:00

Anna Pavlova as The Dying Swan 1907

Les Syphildes 1909

by Mikhail Fokine,

Music by Chopin

Danced by Anna

Pavlova and Vaslav

Nijinsky

Les Sylphides 31:37



*First Performance in London 1911 Digital Scan from Ballet Panorama-
An Illustrated Chronicle of Three Centuries*

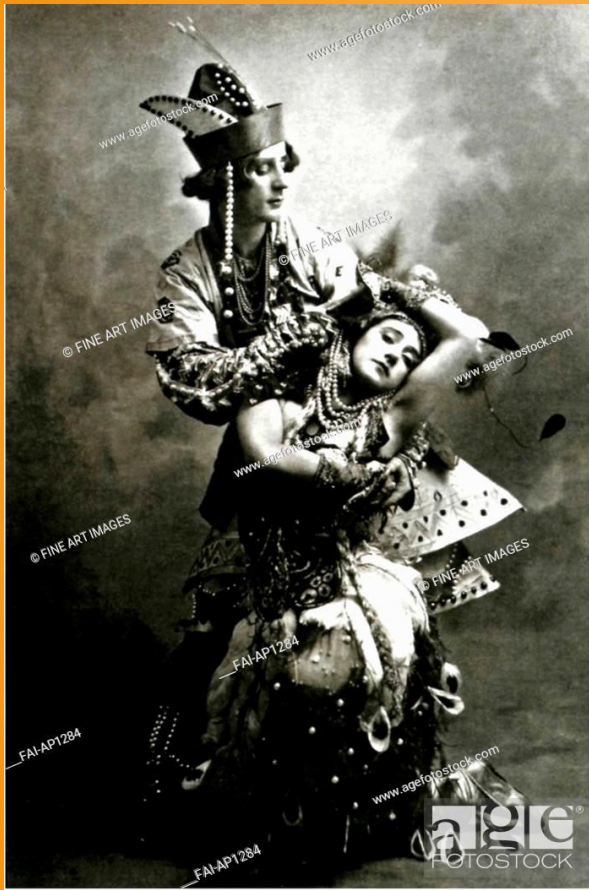
Scheherazade 1910 by Mikhail Fokine, Music by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Sets & costumes by Léon Bakst. Based on a tale from The Thousand and One Nights. Nijinsky danced the role of the Golden Slave. Premiered at Paris Opera.

"Scheherazade"

by N. Rimsky-Korsakov and Leon Bakst 2:19



*Mikhail Fokine and Vera Fokina
Scheherazade, 1910*



Firebird 1910 by Mikhail Fokine. Music by Igor Stravinsky.

Sets by Aleksandr Golovin. Costumes by Léon Bakst.

Premiere: Palais Garnier

Based on Russian folklore

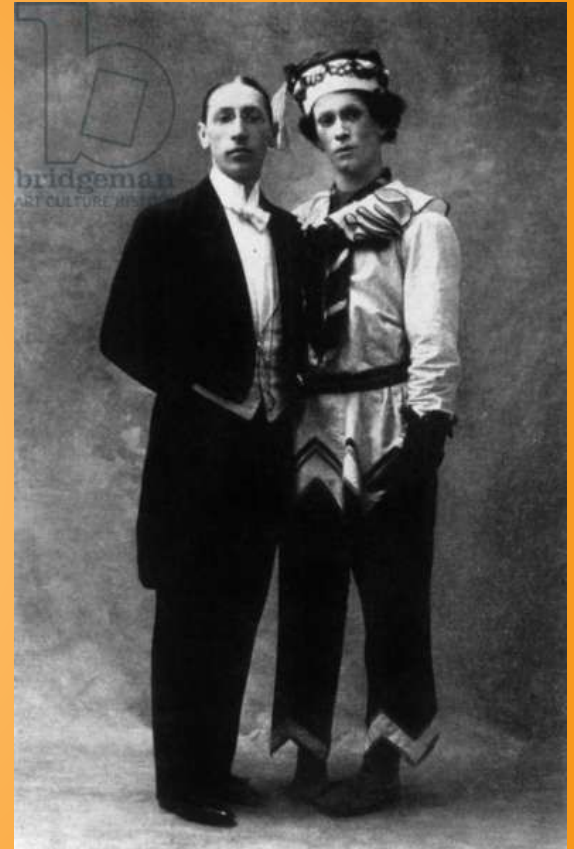
Firebird

(Bolshoi Ballet Russe Film)- Segment from Return of the Firebird 42:41

Tamara Karsavina and Michel Fokine

Petrushka 1911 Ballet and orchestral concert work by Igor Stravinsky. choreography was by Michel Fokine and stage designs and costumes by Alexandre Benois, Premiere: Théâtre du Châtelet; Paris

Petrouchka 37:19
Australian Ballet, 2009



*Igor Stravinsky, Vaslav Nijinsky as
Petrouchka in 1911*

L'Après-midi d'un Faune 1912 by Vaslav Nijinsky. Music by Claude Debussy. Design: Léon Bakst. Premiere: Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

L'Après-midi d'un faune

Afternoon of a Faun - Ballets Russes. 11:29

Nijinsky's Faun Costume from the front cover of the programme for the 7th season of the 'Ballets Russes'

Leon Bakst, 1912



La Sacre Du Printemps 1913 (The Rite of Spring) by Vaslav Nijinsky. Music by Igor Stravinsky. Premiere: Théâtre des Champs-Élysées; Paris.



The young girls of Le Sacre, original costumes and stage set, 1913

The cornerstone for modern dance and modern music.

[Le Sacre du printemps / The Rite of Spring](#)
- Ballets Russes 42:02

Parade 1917 by Léonide Massine. One act. Music by Erik Satie. Sets & costumes by Pablo Picasso.
Premiere: Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris

BALLET "PARADE"

- 1917 22:21

Taken at the backstage, 1917



Les Noches 1923 by Bronislava Nijinska. Music by Igor Stravinsky. Sets by Natalia Gontcharova. Premier: Théâtre de la Gaîté in Paris. The first neoclassical ballet.



Les Noces 9:56
(Mariinsky Ballet) 1/2

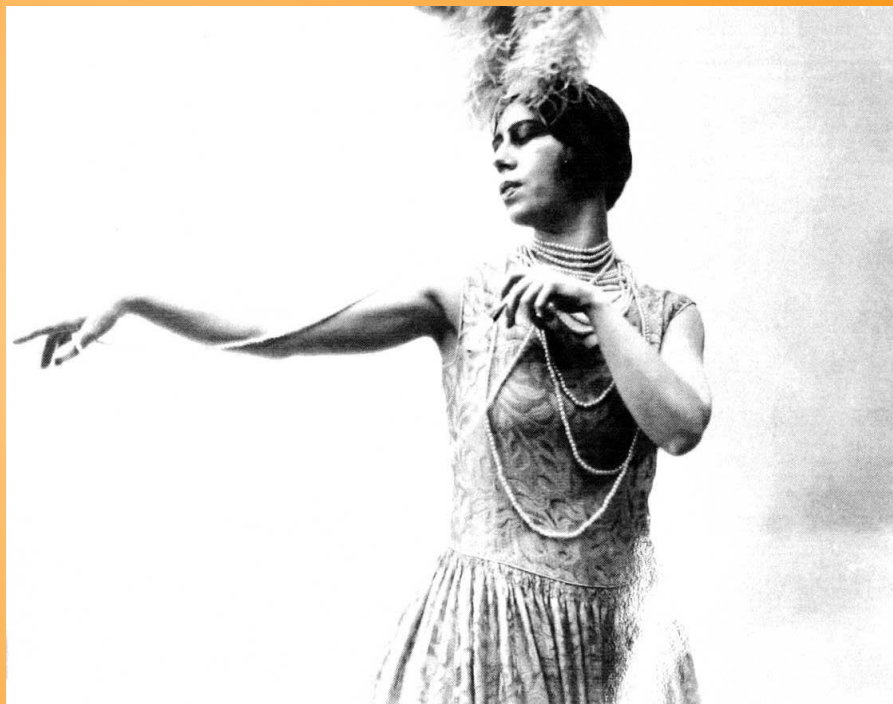
In rehearsal on the roof of the Theatre de Monte-Carlo, 1923

Les Biches 1924 by Bronislava Nijinska. One act. Music by Francis Poulenc, costumes by Marie Laurencin. Premier: Salle Garnier in Monte Carlo, Paris.

Les Biches

(the little darlings, does),

Bronislava Nijinska. 2:29



Bronislava Nijinska, L'Hôtesse, 1924

Le Train Bleu 1924 by Bronislava Nijinska. Music by Darius Milhaud. Costumes by Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel. Premier: Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.



Le Train Bleu

Photos and Sets 1:15

Le Train Bleu- Tennis and
Golf

Dance 5:00

*Bronislava Nijinska, Lydia Sokolova, Leon Woizikowski,
Anton Dolin in Le Train Bleu, 1924*

Serge Diaghilev (1872-1929)
Founder and director of
Ballets Russes

Diaghilev and the
Ballets Russes 28:11

The Ballets Russes transformed the future of ballet in the world. By bringing dancers with great traditional training to look at modern forms of movement, great music — and bringing music and design and dance together into a cohesive whole.



Ballets Russes in Seville, 1916. Sergei Diaghilev (center)