The Ballets Russes and Beyond

Belle-époque Paris witnessed the emergence of a vibrant and diverse dance scene, one that crystallized around the Ballets Russes, the Russian dance company formed by impresario Sergey Diaghilev. The company has long served as a convenient turning point in the history of dance, celebrated for its revolutionary choreography and innovative productions. This book presents a fresh slant on this much-told history. Focusing on the relation between music and dance, Davinia Caddy approaches the Ballets Russes with a wide-angled lens that embraces not just the choreographic, but also the cultural, political, theatrical and aesthetic contexts in which the company made its name. In addition, Caddy examines and interprets contemporary French dance practices, throwing new light on some of the most important debates and discourses of the day.

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The Ballets Russes and Beyond

Music and Dance in Belle-Époque Paris

Davinia Caddy
For my mum and dad
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Note on presentation

All primary, French-language sources are quoted in the original French and followed by an English translation (my own, unless otherwise stated). There are two exceptions, when only the French is given: footnotes; and single words or short phrases in the main text, the meaning of which seems clear enough. Quotations from primary sources in other languages, as well as all secondary material, appear in English translation only.

Titles of productions by the Ballets Russes appear in their original French. The spelling of Russian names follows The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians; for individuals not listed, I have followed standard practice.
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