

PRAISE FOR BERTRAND NORMAND'S *BALLERINA*

[4/4 stars] "Enchanting... a chronicle sure to mesmerize anyone with an obsession for the relentlessly rigorous, conventlike world of classical ballet."-Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

Critic's Pick "A striking lesson in ballet's rigorous aesthetic alchemy." –Michelle Orange, *The Village Voice*

Critic's Pick "A beautiful snapshot of ballet life, Russian style...those passionate about ballet will need no encouragement to experience." -Kenneth Turan, *LA Times*

"Even folks who don't know their right foot from their left will find inspiration in the lives of these devoted dancers." –V.A. Musetto, *The New York Post*

"A perfect complement to *Ballets Russes!*" –Ronnie Scheib, *Variety*

"Dance aficionados will be sent over the moon by this compelling documentary."
–Michael Phillips, *Chicago Tribune*

"A striking lesson in ballet's rigorous aesthetic alchemy." –*LA Weekly*

"Highest rating - four hats. It's like having a front row seat at some of the best ballet you'll ever see. A wonderful insight into ballerinas. Beautiful, stunning, fascinating filmmaking. Makes you appreciate the ballet, even if you've never seen one. If you can't afford or don't have time to get to the ballet, this is a great way to enjoy it. A superb film." -Jan Wahl, *KCBS Radio, San Francisco*

"Telling...fascinating...has captured the fragility and ferocity of five Mariinsky ballerinas. A surprisingly intimate portrait of what it means to be a ballerina." –Gia Kourlas, *Time Out NY*

"An admirable look into the venerable St. Petersburg company ...The footage of the dancers in performance, rehearsal and the studio is beautiful, and all the subjects are worthy interviews."
–Leba Hertz, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"*Ballerina* parts the curtain on a rarefied realm where the bodies of young girls are stretched, twisted and sent floating on air according to the dictates of a severe and beautiful cult...The world it reveals — elegant and harsh, glamorous and grinding, classical and obsolete — proves rich in exquisite contradictions."
-Nathan Lee, *The New York Times*

"Sublime performances...a skillfully written and entertaining documentary that is also a clever investigation into the professional lives of the world's best dancers." –Maria Garcia, *Film Journal International*

"A revelation." –R.M. Campbell, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

"A fascinating portrait of these artists where audiences rarely see them — off stage."–Kim Brown, *Tulsa World*

"Excitement and verbal expressiveness is brought to the stage with such emotional force as to bring tears to a dance-lover's eyes." –*Cinema Signals*

Flick Pick! "Fascinating, intriguing, miraculous ...a celebration." - Michael Roberts, *Westword Denver*

"A fascinating glimpse... an indispensable treat." –Sally Kline, *The Washington Examiner*

"Jewel of a documentary... the camera tells a deeply moving story...artfully filmed...eye-opening scenes..." – Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*

"Elegant cuts, gorgeous, graceful performances ...Even those skeptical of ballet will likely be entranced ...mesmerizing." –Tricia Olszewski, *Washington City Paper*

"Ballet lovers should adore." –Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*

"A spectacular peek into the lives of five ballerinas."-Nicole Campoy-Leffler , *Fine Arts LA*

"Gorgeous...highlights the ethereal quality of these skillful superstars. Reminiscent of the dancer-dreaming paintings of Degas." –Elliot V. Kotek, *Moving Pictures*

"Beguiling documentary about the art and dedication of five young Russian ballerinas...refreshing and illuminating." -Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*

"Rich with ravishing performances! Fans of *Ballets Russes* will enjoy this resplendent documentary." -*Palm Springs Film Festival*

"BEST OF FEST! Most beautiful!" -Gordon Parr, *Notes From Hollywood.com* (at the Palm Springs Int. FF)

"Endlessly fascinating." –Kevin Filipiski , *Times Square*

"Magnificent! A refreshing look at the ballet." -Lori Henry, *Suite101.com*

"Fans of this art form will be delighted ... an elegant and enlightening view behind the facade of an art form."
–*Black Tie St. Louis*

"The contradictions are endless and all so romantic...That something so beautiful can exist in this modern world is, itself, a source of wonder." -- Sara Schieron, *Boxoffice*

"Consistently balanced and intimately revelatory. It's a special treat that informs an interested audience about what goes on in dancers' minds and lives...Behind-the-curtains was never more ravishing." –*Cinema Signals*
"Ballerina" is a beautiful ticket to another world." -Martha K. Baker, *KDHX St. Louis*