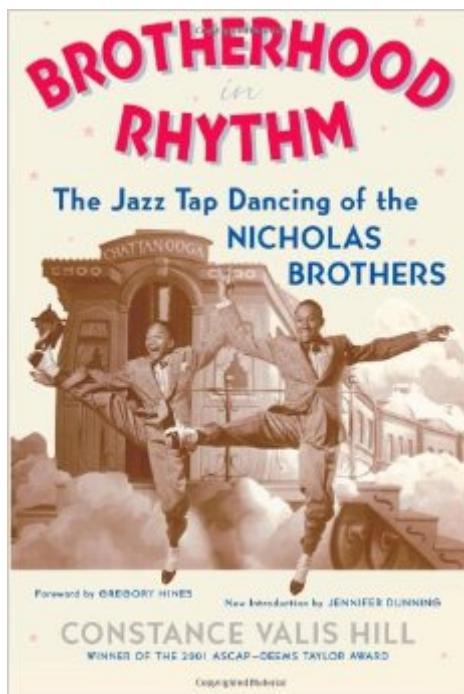


The book was found

Brotherhood In Rhythm: The Jazz Tap Dancing Of The Nicholas Brothers



Synopsis

Tap dancing legends Fayard (b. 1914) and Harold (1918-2000) Nicholas amazed crowds with their performances in musicals and films from the 30s to the 80s. They performed with Gene Kelly in The Pirate, with Cab Calloway in Stormy Weather, with Dorothy Dandridge (Harold's wife) in Sun Valley Serenade, and with a number of other stars on the stage and on the screen. Author Hill not only guides readers through the brothers' showstopping successes and the repressive times in which their dancing won them universal acclaim, she also offers extensive insight into the history and choreography of tap dancing, bringing readers up to speed on the art form in which the Nicholas Brothers excelled.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would recommend purchasing Ms. Hill's treatise on the dance and historic origins of the Nicholas Brothers' dance styles and choreography. However, those who seek a detailed biography will be disappointed, as this book was aimed to be a scholarly work, not a biographical one. The book has little mention of their personal life, marriages, divorces, activities apart and completely ignored many foreign films they made in the 1950's. Harold's marriage to Dorothy Dandridge is mentioned only in passing, and his extensive career in Paris for a decade was only lightly researched. No personal family interviews were apparently done. Although excellent as a dance resource, those seeking a more well-rounded insight on the personality and life of these two genious entertainers will be better served by a biography, which Ms. Hill's book does not aim to be. It will make a great companion work to a still much-needed in-depth look at their lives.

A well-done and enjoyable account of the lives and accomplishments of two of the best dancers who ever lived and of the times in which they performed. Informative and entertaining. It gave me more insight into the era during which my father, too, performed, but as a ballroom dancer ("Dancing in the Stars: Carroll Webster, International Luminary of Vaudeville and Hollywood"). I know that my father met the brothers, and after reading this book I feel as if I, too, knew them. Thank you.

If you're a fan of the Nicholas Brothers or tap dancing or musical films of the thirties and forties, you will enjoy this book. A superb review of their career. Worthy of the extraordinary talent of the subjects.

"Brotherhood" met all of my expectations. The writing is excellent, the narrative is easy reading, and the story of the Nicholas family is well researched. It is loaded with historical tidbits, laced with little known facts, and interesting behind the scenes coverage. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The only troublesome thing for me had nothing to do with the book itself; it is truth-telling at its finest. Here is my problem: The acrobatic, creative, energetic, stylish, classy, graceful dancing of the Nicholas Brothers was stymied only by racism, not by their enormous ability. All the more a reason to celebrate their capacity to be creative and to joyfully dance in the face of systemic racial prejudice.

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