



Choreographers and Dancers

Fine Arts Study Guide Version 3.1

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Choreographers often appear as clues in questions on ballets, and are rarely asked alone at the high school level. Choreographers are listed roughly chronologically.

Choreographer	Details
Marius Petipa [peh-tee-pah]	Russian; choreographed a revival of Swan Lake with Lev Ivanov , who added classic choreography for the Dance of the Little Swans; had the Sugar-Plum Fairy dance with Prince Coqueluche in his version of <i>The Nutcracker</i> ; choreographed The Sleeping Beauty and <i>La Bayadere</i>
Sergei Diaghilev [dee-ah-gih-lev]	Russian; founded the Ballets Russes (Russian Ballet), with which he produced several Igor Stravinsky ballets, including The Firebird , which was choreographed by Michel Fokine (see below) and The Rite of Spring , which was choreographed by Diaghilev's lover, Vaslav Nijinsky (see below); worked with Anna Pavlova
Michel Fokine [foh-keen]	Russian; choreographed <i>The Dying Swan</i> , based on "The Swan" from <i>The Carnival of the Animals</i> by Camille Saint-Saens, for Anna Pavlova ; choreographed <i>Les Sylphides</i> ; choreographed Diaghilev's production of The Firebird by Igor Stravinsky
Vaslav Nijinsky [nih-jin-skee]	Russian; unusually for a male dancer, is known for dancing en pointe , on the tips of his toes; created provocatively sexual choreography, including a piece in which a girl dances herself to death as a sacrifice, for The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky for a production by Sergei Diaghilev , his lover; choreographed and danced an apparent masturbation scene with a scarf in Afternoon of a Faun , an adaptation of <i>Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun</i> by Claude Debussy
Martha Graham	American; choreographed Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland; often worked with set designer Isamu Noguchi; developed the "Graham technique" for modern dance ; worked with George Balanchine (see below) on <i>Episodes</i>
George Balanchine [bal-ann-cheen]	Russian-American; founded the New York City Ballet and hired Maria Tallchief as a principal dancer; choreographed an American production of The Nutcracker ; worked with Martha Graham (see above) on <i>Episodes</i>
Agnes de Mille	American; choreographed musicals, including <i>Oklahoma</i> and <i>Brigadoon</i>
Jerome Robbins	American; choreographed musicals, including <i>West Side Story</i>
Bob Fosse [faw-see]	American; choreographed musicals, including <i>Cabaret</i> and <i>Damn Yankees</i>
Merce Cunningham	American; life partner and collaborator of American minimalist composer John Cage ; worked with Martha Graham

Dancer	Details
Anna Pavlova	credited with inventing modern pointe shoes
Isadora Duncan	prominent proponent of American dance; died when her signature silk scarf became tangled in the wheel of a moving car
Maria Tallchief	first Native American prima ballerina
Misty Copeland	first Black prima ballerina for the American Ballet Theatre