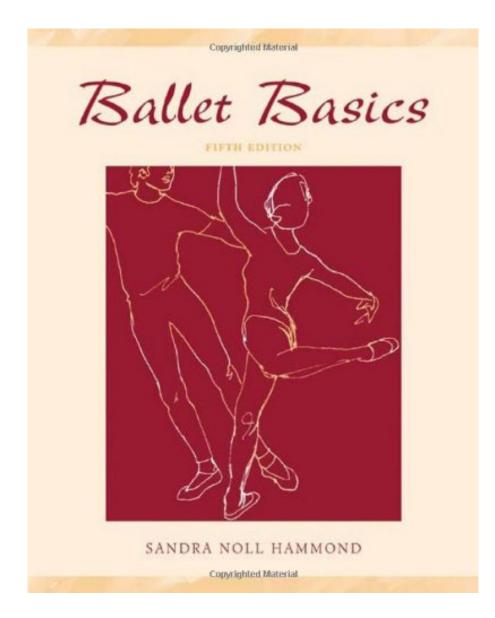


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About the Author

Sandra Noll Hammond trained in ballet in New York at the Juilliard School, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, and the School of Ballet Repertory. Among her teachers were Antony Tudor, Margaret Craske, Thalia Mara, and Arthur Mahoney. She has performed with the Ballet Repertory Dancers, Connecticut Opera, Arizona Dance Theatre, and Pacific Ballet. She also has worked as a free-lance artist, performing and staging Baroque ballet repertory reconstructed from her own research. A graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Hammond's teaching career has focussed on ballet in higher education. She was instrumental in developing a dance major at the University of Arizona, Tucson, where she served as Coordinator of Dance. Later, she served as Director of Dance in the Theatre and Dance Department of the University of Hawaii. Hammond is recognized internationally for her research, lectures, and publications on the history of ballet technique. In addition to Ballet Basics, her publications include Ballet: Beyond the Basics (also published by McGraw-Hill) and numerous articles in dance journals and in ballet encyclopedias and dictionaries. She is a frequent guest artist on university campuses, where she enjoys introducing students to earlier forms of ballet technique and repertory from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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Written for the adult beginner, Ballet Basics is a well-illustrated introduction to the fundamentals of ballet technique. The text also provides an overview of the history of ballet and introduces students to the world of ballet.

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Useful for some things

By Laura Quave

This book is helpful if you know absolutely nothing about dance, and need to learn for yourself or your beginning children. When teacher or student says a term, you will be able to know for sure what it means. It will warn against some of the most obvious wrong ways of doing things. It provides basic illustrations of the positions, movements, etc. that are defined.

It will not explain which muscles to use to turn your feet out, or which to engage to hold your pelvis upright, or even how your arms should be rotated in order to obtain arms that look like the ones in the illustrations. For that, you will either need your instructor to explain these things in detail (if they are willing and able) or you will need another book or video to help you.

It is useful as a basic book of definitions, but no further.

30 of 30 people found the following review helpful.

Great learning aid for adult beginners

By The Prof

I have the 3rd edition of this book, which was required for a college Ballet I class. As a beginning, adult, male student, I found the book to be very detailed - which I like. She gives you illustrations of steps, with the French name & pronunciation, why your doing it (e.g. to stretch certain muscles), a description, etc..

Initially, working at the barre (e.g. how to stand, plie', positions of the feet) Sandra gives correct & incorrect drawings. Of course, no book or video can replace being in class nor should it. With ballet you need a teacher to correct what your doing wrong so you can learn from it. Then having good books, videos, etc. as reference material helps you learn.

The book is written for us beginner adults, not children and not the pro's, which is really nice. Since we don't have nearly the flexibility of them. It also includes some history in the back of the book. Illustrations show men as well as women. Also included is what to wear to class, what to expect in class, how you should act, etc..

Get her other book once you get beyond the basics.

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

The Best Book for Adult Beginners...

By artslover

Finally a good ballet instruction book that's encouraging and doesn't talk down to adult beginners. The more ballet classes I take, the more I realize how well this book distills the important aspects of ballet. Sketches and photos showing correct (and incorrect) body positioning are appropriately used. When I started ballet, I picked up a handful of books, and I always reached for this one when I had 10 minutes to learn a new tidbit. The brief history of ballet in the final chapter is added bonus. If you're an adult beginner, start with this book and the David Howard videos, plus a good teacher once or twice a week. You won't be auditioning for the American Ballet Theatre, but you'll become a proficient dancer pretty quickly.

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