



"Robert de Warren is a wonderful, charismatic voice from the dance world, who delivers our history with great style and panache! "

**Julie Kent - Past Principal Dancer, American Ballet Theatre
Artistic Director - The Washington Ballet**

INTRODUCTION

In a varied and comprehensive series of lectures, Robert de Warren captivates the attention of his audience with fascinating details of his personal international experience and verified historical facts. Presented in a highly theatrical way, based on his long career as artistic director, choreographer, presenter, designer and researcher in the world of performing arts, he uses a multimedia presentation that is also highly entertaining.

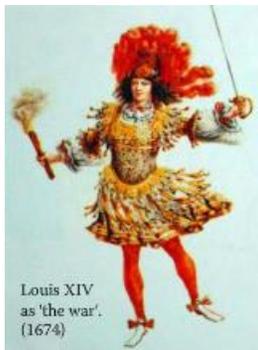
➤ HISTORY OF BALLET

500 years of ballet. Two Series in six Lectures each.

SERIES I –FROM CRINOLINS AND HEELS TO TUTUS ON POINTE– 17th to 19th Centuries

○ THE BIRTH OF BALLET

- Catherine de Medici - The Italian French Queen
- The Dancing King. The Court of Louis XIV of France and “first steps,” how the Royal Academy of Music and Dance became the cradle of classical ballet



○ A ROYAL ART

- The Louis of France
- Professional dancers and court entertainment

○ POST FRENCH REVOLUTION (1799 - 1820).

- The loss of the court and birth of people's dance - La Fille Mal Gardee

○ ROMANTIC BALLET (MID-19TH CENTURY). Topics include:

- “The Quest for Ideal Love” Development of the classical technique; the creation of pointe shoes and achieving spirituality in motion

○ THE 19th CENTURY. The Classical Period . Topics include:

- The Golden Age - Creation of the masterpieces of the Russian Ballet.
- The decadence of European ballet
- **RUSSIAN STARS THAT WOULD CONQUER EUROPE (THE LATE 1800s).** Topics include:
A revolution in the wings. Tamara Karsavina, Michael Fokine, Anna Pavlova, Vaslav Nijinsky

SERIES II – FROM TUTUS AND POINTE TO BAREFOOT ON STAGE

- **TURN OF THE CENTURY EUROPEAN BALLETT (1890-1910).** Topics include:
 - Imperial Russia and the emergence of Russian ballet
 - Diaghilev and Fokine as founders of modern dance theatre
- **20th CENTURY BALLETT 1900 – 1930.** Topics include:
Russian dance revolution: The spiritual liberation and its effect on the emergence of Nijinsky, Debussy, Stravinsky, Picasso, and others
- **20th CENTURY DANCE (1930 - 1960).** Topics include:
 - The Post-Diaghilev Legacy – Birth of Ballet Companies Worldwide
 - A new classicism
- **20TH CENTURY – Divergence of paths: Dance evolution and invention.** Topics include:
 - The mid-20th century: Contemporary classical and modern dance on pointe
 - The late 20th century: Birth of popular dance culture from the streets
- **BRIDGE TO THE 21ST CENTURY -** Topics Include:
 - A review of major choreographers and their language
- **21st CENTURY DANCE AND THE LIVING ARTS.** Topics include:
 - Heirs of neo-classical invention
 - Dance as a composite art with inclusion of multi-media techniques and broadening horizons

➤ **GREATS OF THE 20TH CENTURY - Six major choreographers in a Series of Six**

- Balanchine/Stravinsky
 - Kenneth MacMillan
 - Martha Graham
 - John Neumeier
 - Pina Bauch
 - Alvin Ailey
- This format can be updated to any choice of Master Choreographers

➤ **MASTER WORKS** – A comparative study of universal themes approached by different choreographers –

- Romeo & Juliet,
- The Rite of Spring,
- A Midsummer Night's Dream,
- Othello,
- Lady of the Camellias –
- Bolero

(This format can be updated to include a wide selection of important works.)

➤ **RUDOLF NUREYEV** – Personal memories of a genius –

Three part Series covering the life and art of this outstanding artist through the eyes of a colleague and friend.

- Childhood and defection
- International Star
- Contributions that changed the dance world

➤ **WHAT INSPIRES THE ART OF CHOREOGRAPHY** – Six part Series – Analyzing the source of inspiration that triggers the creative process – Is it music, art, literature, life experience, or opera, musicals, film. The Living Arts are inseparable, but, from where did the original spark originate?

- Opera – Carmen – several choreographers' interpretation
- Dance and musicals – through the eyes of Jerome Robbins
- The written word – Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale – Christopher Wheeldon
- The visual arts – sculpture, painting and more
- Technology – multimedia
- Open discussion

➤ **IRAN – DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CULTURE**

- Robert de Warren spent eleven years in Iran under the late Shah's reign – 1965 – 1978
- Arrival on the Scene- Entering a nation steeped in history and ancient art and science, to make a National Ballet of Iran a top professional company
- The Shah' coronation and becoming part of the imperial court
- Exploring and researching the ethnic, mystic, urban and tribal dance and music
 - Touring the world as ambassador of Iranian culture.

First Series

➤ **MASTER OF THE DANCE TO THE IMPERIAL COURT OF IRAN" DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CULTURE IN A PROGRESSIVE WORLD**

Robert de Warren spent eleven years in Iran (1965 – 1978) as the director of the National Ballet of Iran, under the late Shah's reign, but more importantly as the founder and director of the National Iranian Folklore Society including the College, Research Unit, Archives and performing company "The Mahalli Dancers of Iran" all under the direct patronage of Empress Farah Pahlavi.

By the late 1960s it was clear to the Minister of Arts and Culture (brother-in-law to the Shah) that de Warren was captivated and passionate about researching the nation's cultural heritage in all aspects of daily life. With significant ministerial and royal support a new building became the headquarters of the organization, housing a three year college degree for learning, teaching and performing the results of continued research expeditions around the country; studying, filming and recording ethnic, mystic ceremonies and tribal, urban and religious expression to music and dance.

This three lecture series will attempt to demonstrate the results achieved and their significance in domestic life as well as their enthusiastic reception internationally. However, an unexpected outcome for de Warren himself has been the observation of a conflict of interest from some Western powers and Iran's increasing influence within the Middle East and in some aspects, worldwide.

➤ 1 – ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE

Background to de Warren's appointment and his unexpected arrival in Tehran as Ballet Master/Choreographer to the National Ballet of Iran.

- The cultural surprise – The Coronation
- His first creations and his contribution towards the completion of Iran's first Opera House, The Rudaki Hall.

Brief view of the ballet's development and repertoire

➤ 2 - DISCOVERY OF A NATION

- An invitation to start a national project. The College, The Research, The Archives, The Mahalli Dancers of Iran.
- Research at the source of theatrical dance productions.
- First performances at Rudaki Hall
- Tribal dance music and ceremonies, Urban lifestyles and customs – weddings, circumcisions, religious and yearly events and traditions.

➤ 3 – AMBASSADORS OF IRANIAN CULTURE

- Royal patronage and the challenge of Diplomacy at Court and in the Diplomatic hub.
- Official International Touring. The quandary of an Englishman representing the Court and Country.
- Lessons learned.

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NOTE: Most of these Lectures can be presented individually. In some cases an Introduction Lecture to a particular series is also available.

For further information please contact
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Visit: www.Robertdewarren.org

Robert's Memoir

