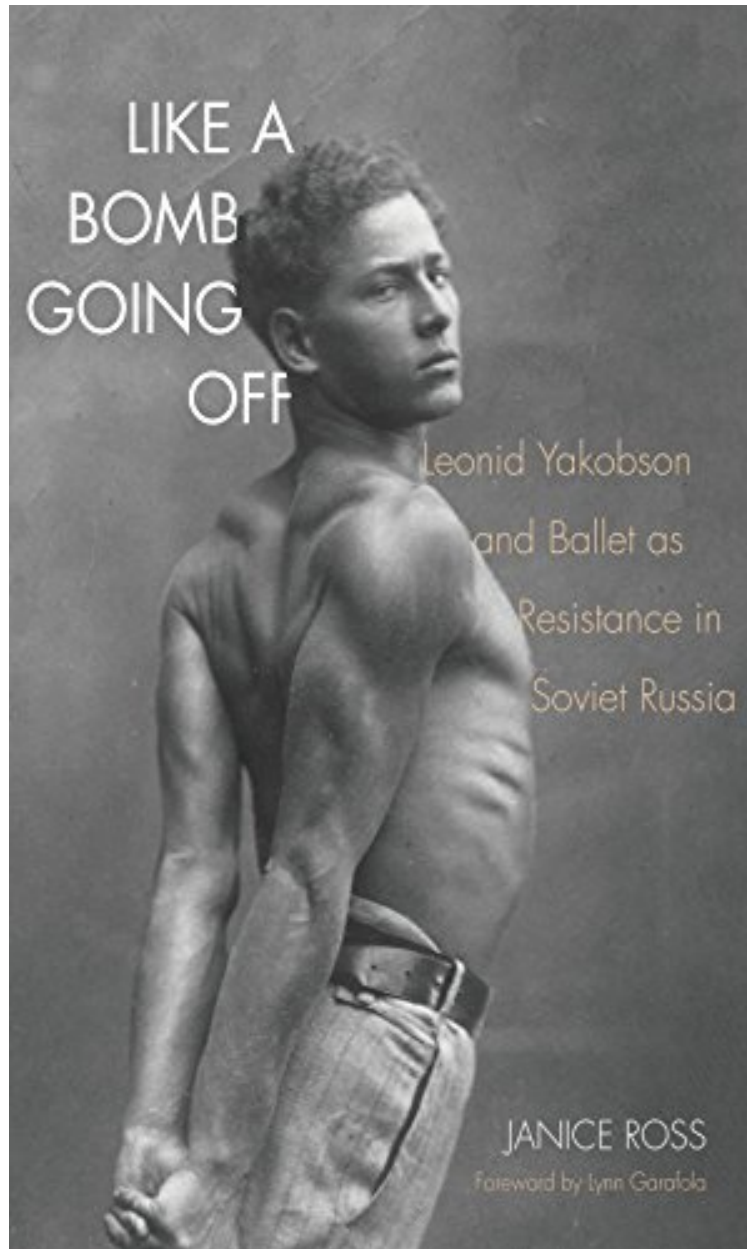


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## Like a Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia

*Janice Ross*

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**Janice Ross : Like a Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Like a Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Incomplete, Disjointed BiographyBy Natalia OliveraA welcomed tome, as very little has been written about this choreographer in any language other than Russian. However, it is somewhat disjointed and not well organized. Very frustrating that it's not a logical, chronological read. The reader must plow through 60+ pages of 'musings' before the subject is 'born'; then, the first 20 years are very sketchy. Dancers who were overworked and underpaid by Jacobson don't seem to have made it into this book. Neither has any mention of what's happened to his son and grandson after his death. For a researcher who had unprecedented and exclusive access to the subject's private papers and widow, Ross delivers a disappointing result. I give it two stars for the excellent descriptions of ballets rarely seen in the west but, as a bio of Jacobson THE MAN, this is sugar coated and incomplete, as if authorized by the subject's family. We await a complete, independent biography of Jacobson, with no biases.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A MUSTBy Guy BaumWonderful and insightful book. A must for everyone who is interested in the cultural phenomena that is Russian ballet2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A true look at communist RussiaBy henrybergOne of the most enlightening books that gives great insight into Stalinist Russia. How it effected not only the arts and artists but also the people who lived through those times. The racism toward Jewish citizens was appalling!

Everyone has heard of George Balanchine. Few outside Russia know of Leonid Yakobson, Balanchine's contemporary, who remained in Lenin's Russia and survived censorship during the darkest days of Stalin. Like Shostakovich, Yakobson suffered for his art and yet managed to create a singular body of revolutionary dances that spoke to the Soviet condition. His work was often considered so culturally explosive that it was described as "like a bomb going off." Based on untapped archival collections of photographs, films, and writings about Yakobson's work in Moscow and St. Petersburg for the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets, as well as interviews with former dancers, family, and audience members, this illuminating and beautifully written biography brings to life a hidden history of artistic resistance in the USSR through this brave artist, who struggled against officially sanctioned anti-Semitism while offering a vista of hope.

'Ross is a passionate advocate, ardently evoking his surviving ballets and why his work, and his courage, meant so much to Soviet audiences.'-Zoe Anderson, The Independent