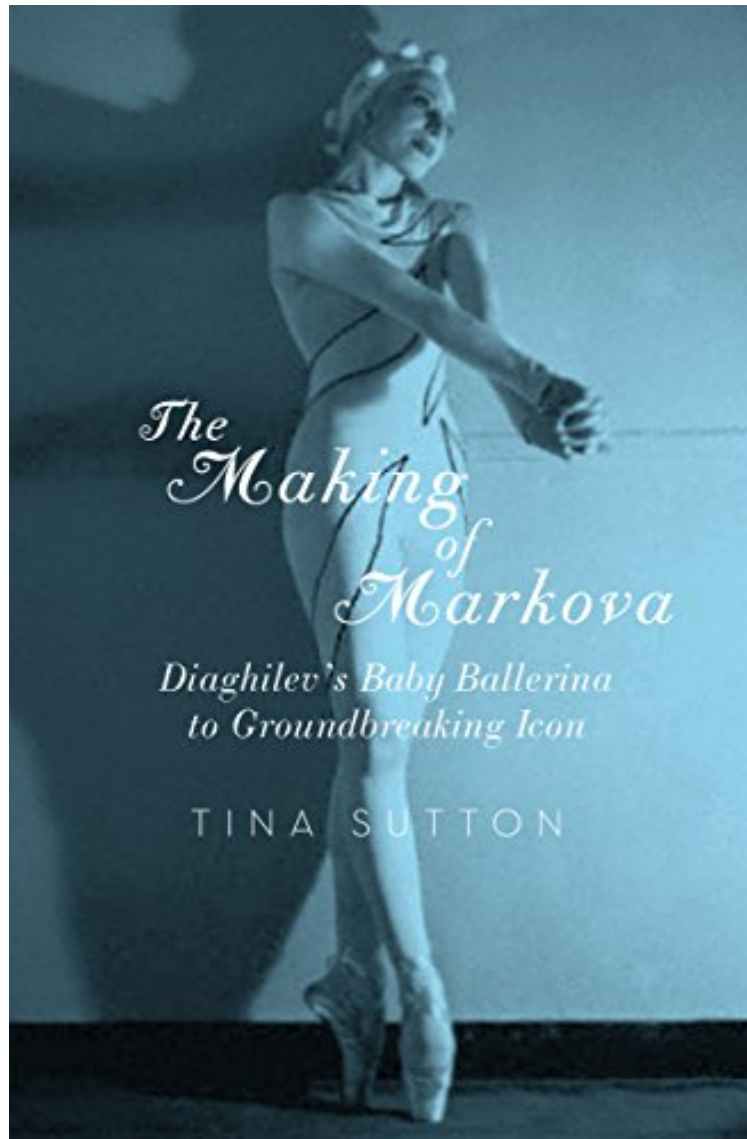


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The Making of Markova: Diaghilev's Baby Ballerina to Groundbreaking Icon

Tina Sutton

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Tina Sutton : The Making of Markova: Diaghilev's Baby Ballerina to Groundbreaking Icon before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Markova: Diaghilev's Baby Ballerina to Groundbreaking Icon:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Much to praise, but...By S. Dow Tina Sutton's new biography of ballerina Alicia Markova is jam-packed with facts about both Markova's life and mid-century British ballet. Sutton states on her website that she has not written a "ballet book," but a book about Markova is exactly that. There are a

number of inaccuracies about ballet's history, specifically regarding Giselle, Markova's major role. The text is stuffed with long block quotes which distract from the narrative. Sutton is an enthusiastic author but her background in historical scholarship and ballet are sorely lacking for this reader. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Ballerina, Great Book! By Mary-Ann Trippet This book gives a comprehensive view of Markova's life, from her childhood days in London, through the turbulent years of World War II, and into her golden years. She sacrificed her health and her personal life for her art, and was a guiding force for the growth of ballet in England. I would highly recommend this book to those who love reading about the lives of the great dancers of the twentieth century and the days of Diaghilev and the Ballet Russe. - Mary-Ann Trippet 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A chore By dc metro area This is a tedious read if still the definitive work on Markova. Frankly I could do without all the embedded quotes from contemporary articles. The author has synthesized this information anyway. It is just too long and dull, and sadly, Markova herself seems that way. She is too perfect to be real or interesting. I am only 250 pages into the book and will add to my review if my opinion changes, assuming I can finish the book. I have read dozens of ballet biographies and this one does not maintain my attention.

As improbable as it is inspiring, the story of one of the greatest ballerinas of the twentieth century; her fortitude and reinvention; and her journey from the Ballets Russes, Balanchine, and Matisse to international stardom

From Booklist *Starred* Dame Alicia Markova, once "the most famous ballerina in the world," was a Jewish Londoner, born Lilian Alicia Marks and given her stage name by Sergei Diaghilev when he brought her into the Ballet Russes at age 14. The unlikeliest of ballerinas— "bone thin," flat-footed, knock-kneed, and sickly—she was nonetheless a true prodigy, possessing not only "technical bravura" but also a sterling work ethic, a "phenomenal memory" for music and choreography, and a versatile gift for design. Sutton, an arts journalist for the Boston Globe, makes superlative use of the extraordinarily comprehensive archive Markova maintained until her death at 94 in 2004. Sutton's sense of wonderment lights up every page of this hard-to-believe, utterly transporting story of discipline, commitment, hardship, and steely self-reliance. An artist and a hero, Markova publicly expressed pride in her heritage when Hitler came to power and refused requests to have her nose "reduced" to look less Jewish. She endured vicious sabotage attempts, grueling tours, and heartache. A brilliant classical dancer, she also performed revolutionary modern works with soaring artistry, collaborating with Ashton, Balanchine, Stravinsky, and Chagall. And she circled the globe "to spread the gospel of ballet." Quoting dexterously from Markova's electrifying journals, Sutton brings Markova and her world to scintillating life in this ravishing biography of perpetual motion, limelight and darkness, courage and creativity. --Donna Seaman "She seemed to float and fly, as if the air was her natural element." —The Economist