

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?

BIG NEWS.

We're not saying this is the greatest newsletter in the world. But we're not not saying that. In fact, no one's not not saying that, which leaves room for interpretation. So if you'd like to share what is arguably the greatest newsletter in the world, use the button below to send it to your friends, who might not not say anything, too. That's how word gets around.

Anyway, the big news is that's what we're calling it. Big News. For actual news, company insights, and monthly selections of the best in art and culture, keep reading.

GET BIG NEWS

THANK YOU. NOW WE KNOW THE TRUTH.

We haven't heard anyone argue that 2020 was a great year. In fact, there were some rumors that humanity was sliding into total darkness. It turns out this isn't true.

In a year when a global pandemic was vying for news coverage, so many of you, despite the worries and concerns occupying us all, planned for a future of beauty by donating to our Shape The Future campaign. That says it all. Thank you—every one of you.

SHAPE THE FUTURE

OUTSIDERS — ARE THE NEW INSIDERS

DELIIIIIBES!



ACB's Outsiders podcast just completed its 33rd episode, which is an important milestone between 30 and 35. And it's not just ACB's audience that is tuning in for the eclectic mix of ballet analysis and toast recommendations. Outsiders is currently listened to on every continent except Antarctica, but screw them. Outsiders even has listeners in Penco, which it turns out is in the Bio Bio region of Chile.

Episode 33 features ACB dancer Madeline Houk's parents' attempt to crush her dreams, and a discussion of why there's so much bad ballet music.

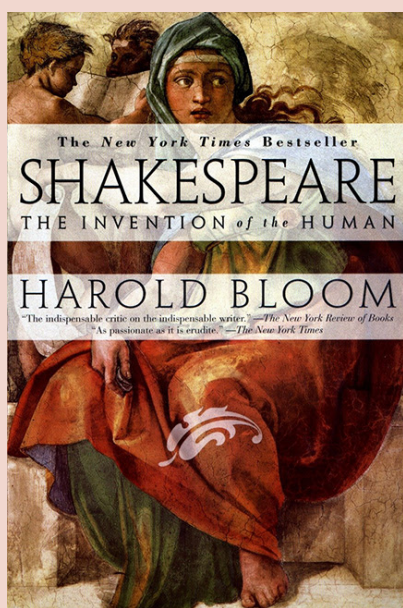
PIC OF THE MONTH

ACB's performances in unconventional spaces can create moments of unusual beauty and intimacy, and not always onstage. Because ACB's space at The Bloc lacked a fully divided backstage area, the dancers often had to prepare in dark spaces with small lights. In this image, Rochelle Chang gets ready for Jones' Adamiana in Season 5. By then, the dancers had mostly stopped noticing photographer Anastasia Petukhova's almost ubiquitous presence, allowing her to shoot with exceptional intimacy.



PICKS OF THE MONTH

Just because you can't attend a performance doesn't mean we don't want to keep stuffing you with the best in art and culture. And now that you aren't spending so much time at the ballet, you can finally pick up that book you've been meaning to read. I mean, that we meant to read, finally did, and now mean for you to.



SHAKESPEARE — THE INVENTION OF THE HUMAN

Harold Bloom

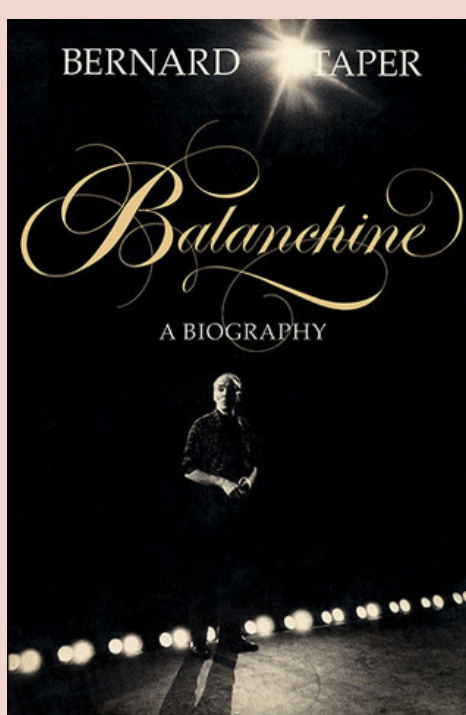
Of course, you'd think that Harold Bloom is being metaphorical when he asserts that Shakespeare "invented the human," but he's not, really. Bloom can be elliptical, but you won't come away from this book without your appreciation of Shakespeare, literature, and perhaps even your own humanity deepened. Each play gets its own brief chapter, so you can take this one piecemeal over the course of the rest of your life.

BALANCHINE

Bernard Taper

Bloom says Shakespeare will always be ahead of us—that we will always be catching up to him. ACB Director Lincoln Jones describes a distinctly similar experience in studying George Balanchine: "It's like walking toward a mountain... walking for a long time, only to realize that the mountain is farther than you thought, and so much bigger. And having that happen over and over again."

Taper's biography is a great place to begin understanding the scope of Balanchine's artistic accomplishment and is made even more entertaining by those anecdotes which always seem to gather around the unusual life of a genius.



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