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# Ballroom!: Obsession And Passion Inside The World Of Competitive Dance



## Synopsis

“Gorgeous lines, exquisite beauty, and drama delight” and that is just in the dressing room. . . . Ballroom! takes the reader on an extraordinary journey moving with Sharon in and through her competitions and life as a performer. A great read and a glorious ride.” Dance Track Magazine “Offers an enlightening inside view of the politics, biases, stresses, and strategies that characterize the competitive ballroom dance scene. . . . Terps of all stripes will relate to Savoy’s struggles with partners, costumes, the development of choreographic ideas, musical choices, performance mishaps, and the extreme discipline required of professionals in all forms of dance.” Backstage “Originally trained as a professional ballet dancer under George Balanchine of the prestigious School of American Ballet, Savoy segued into the world of ballroom dancing after being sidelined with an ankle injury, and she never looked back.” For the Love of Books “An incredible story of what it takes to make it in our world of glitz and glamor. . . . Through reading this book, people will see dancers in a new light.” Elena Grinenko, World and National Champion “Reminds us all that passion and dedication will attract the circumstances and guidance necessary to see a heartfelt desire come true.” Denis Tremblay, two-time winner, Blackpool Dance Festival, British Professional Rising Star Latin Championships “A great story, told with emotion.” John Kimmins, founder, National Dance Council of America --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This memoir by four-time exhibition-style Blackpool champion Savoy . . . offers a backstage pass to a world that is part dance, part sport, and part art. Dance Studio Life" --This text refers to the

Paperback edition.

An all-access pass to a glamorous and fascinating world "A great story, told with emotion."--John Kimmins, founder, National Dance Council of America "An incredible story of what it takes to make it in our world of glitz and glamour. It makes me relive all of the emotions that I felt while competing. Through reading this book, people will see dancers in a new light." --Elena Grinenko, World & National Champion "Sharon Savoy's exciting dance story is truly educational, informative, and inspirational. It reminds us all that passion and dedication will attract the circumstances and guidance necessary to see a heartfelt desire come true."--Denis Tremblay, two-time winner, Blackpool Dance Festival British Professional Rising Star Latin Championships

À Dreams are made and broken every year in the dazzling Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, England. Fierce competition, brutal politics, and stunning artistry are all on the program at the world's most prestigious competition, known to ballroom dance enthusiasts simply as "Blackpool." Sharon Savoy's lifelong love affair with dance manifested itself early on. At the tender age of 16 she left home to train under George Balanchine at the School of American Ballet in New York. An accomplished ballerina, her desire to dance more expressively and with a partner led her on the path that culminated on the competition ballroom circuit. There, her passion and artistry led her to become a four-time champion in exhibition style. But, as with all obsessions, her success came with a cost. In this spellbinding book, Savoy offers a backstage pass to a world where rhinestones and high heels accompany explosive athleticism and staggering talent. With emotionally absorbing and energy-packed prose, she provides an insider's close-up view of all the players who compose this glamorous world that is part dance, part sport, and part art. Sharon Savoy won her first World Exhibition title at Madison Square Garden in 1984 and twenty years later ended her competitive ballroom exhibition career by winning the 2004 World Exhibition Dance Championships. She is a four-time Blackpool Exhibition Champion, a three-time World Champion, and three-time Star Search winner. She has performed in film, at the Kennedy Center, during the Sydney Olympics, and around the world.

Ms. Savoy certainly has the bona fides, as a multi-year champion in Adagio (Theatre Arts) at, among other places, the Blackpool Dance Festival. This slim book is an excellent introduction to competitive DanceSport. It does not cover in detail the sort of dancing that produces the current "stars" of ballroom - the professionals serving the various "Strictly Come Dancing" and "Dancing with the Stars" franchises - but has the unmistakeable authenticity you can only produce by having

been there and done that. "Ballroom!" is a personal story, but also a guide to competition dancing. If you enjoy televised dancing and would like to know more about the professionals' experience, this is a great place to start.

Sharon Savoy has mesmerized audiences with her magnificent dancing. Her book tells the story of her dance journey and is a must read for competitive ballroom dancers or those that just once want to feel like Ginger Rogers and Cinderella. She brings Blackpool, the most prestigious competition of all, to life for those of us who's dance journey may not have gotten there, yet...Absolutely loved it!

For those interested in learning about the lifestyle of a dancer, then this is the book for you. Sharon provides insights into the training involved and her experiences at Blackpool. She also gives details on the affect of dancing on her personal life. It truly is a great book for those that was a more in depth look into ballroom dancing.

Product was in worse condition than advertised. Book is interesting. I got it for cheap, probably wouldn't pay full price for it.

The Sharon Savoy , Ballroom Obsession Book was Excellent and very pleasant Reading on the life of Dance and Sharon Savoy. . Keith D. Willshire LISTD,FFATD

Excellent, Accurate information - felt as though I was back in Blackpool - and well written.

Miss Savoy gives us a very entertaining look at her experiences in the world of competitive ballroom dancing and especially adagio dancing that she has most expereince with.I found the book very interesting and enjoyable but I think it does not show a lot of the strict competition of international style dancing that most people will encounter if they look for competitions on youtube and perhaps other sources.I think this book will be even more enjoyable if read in combination withÂ Dance With Me: Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy [Hardcover] [2011] Julia A. EricksenÂ which gives more perspective on other aspects of the ballroom competitive dancing experience. Both books read in tandem will give a much more complete picture.

I didn't really know what to expect from this book, but I bought it because I like the dance competitions I see on TV. I also went to a competition once and was curious about how it all

worked. I quickly became a fan because of how Ms. Savoy takes me behind the scenes and into the world that you can only really get to know by being a world class dance competitor. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and all of her insights and stories, and found it an inspiration to try harder in my own dance lessons. I feel that I have a better understanding of the work and dedication and trouble people go through to get to the point where I am watching them on the competition floor. There's so much more that I didn't realize. I like the way Ms. Savoy writes, and would purchase other books from her in the future.

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