

# NEW TITLE

**TATIANA LESKOVA: A BALLERINA AT LARGE • SUZANA BRAGA • 9780704372764**  
*pb • 216x138mm • 256pp w/ illus. • memoir (bm) • dec '12 • £18*

*It is hard to write about a ballerina. Such an immaterial being, so fleeting, so perfectly crafted by invisible gods, that my fingers tread along the keyboard and stumble away. We, the audience, are aware of many things. We understand gravity, the direction of the winds, the brightness of celestial bodies, yet we know nothing of this marriage between angels and dragonflies that leaps from the stage onto our imagination and embodies us in the best of ourselves; a mixture of love, dreams, and longing, a painter's palette transformed into spirit, kaleidoscope music, statues of liquid crystal. I can't speak of that flying multicoloured Stradivarius, whose eyes I see going into orbit and spreading its gaze through the spectators, each receiving their share of blue poetry. **Guilherme Figueiredo***

**Tatiana Leskova** is one of last surviving pupils of dancers from the golden world of the Imperial Russian Ballet. She was born in Paris in 1922, where she studied with Lubov Egorova and other former Imperial Russian ballerinas. She joined the Ballet de la Jeunesse at the age of sixteen, then Colonel de Basil's Ballet Russes. She remained with the company, travelling to South America and settling in Brazil in 1945.

In 1950 she joined the Teatro Municipal in Rio, going on to become a principal dancer, ballet Mistress and artistic director. In her ongoing freelance career, Leskova has continued to revive signature works by Leonide Massine created for the Ballets Russes. She staged *Choréartium* for Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1991 and for Het Nationale Ballet in 2001, and *Les Présages* for the Paris Opera Ballet in 1989, the Joffrey Ballet in 1992, Het Nationale Ballet in 1994, Ballet do Teatro Municipal (1998) and for the Australian Ballet in 2007.

This riveting biography, first published in Brazil, has been brought up to date with Tatiana's close involvement and translated by **Donald E Scrimgeour**.



#### KEY SELLING POINTS:

- *Translated from the Brazilian bestseller*

*This book registers with minute detail the life of Tatiana Leskova, as if – while telling her story, her dance, her passions and pleasures, her sadnesses and joys – it would redeem those who had once watched her dance for a moment, lost in time. It does not...*

**Roberto Pereira**

PUBLISHER  
Quartet Books  
27 Goodge Street  
London  
W1T 2LD  
020 7636 3992  
[david@quartetbooks.co.uk](mailto:david@quartetbooks.co.uk)

SALES  
Turnaround  
Unit 2/3, Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road  
London  
N22 6TZ  
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