

# BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE ELEVEN



CHOREOGRAPHER  
CRAZE

DANCING  
DEEPER:  
THE DREAM  
BALLET

CARLEE'S TOP 3  
GOLDEN AGE  
DANCES

## GOTTA DANCE!

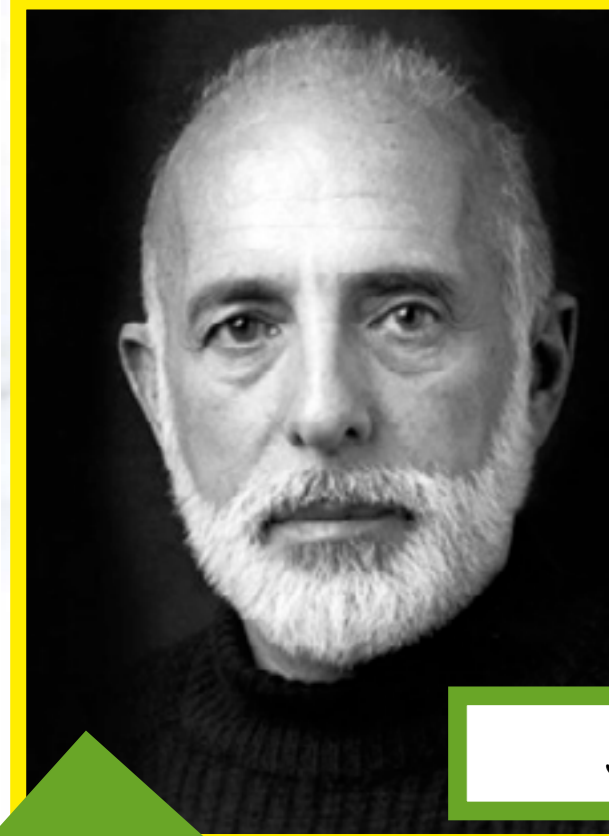
A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

PUBLISHED BY JUST SO KREATIVE - [JSKSTORIES.COM](http://JSKSTORIES.COM)

# GOTTA DANCE!

The Golden Age of Musical Theatre had phenomenal music, talented performers, and of course memorable dances. Popular dance styles at the time included tap dance, ballet, and ballroom. A lot of these styles were often modernized in the times and combined with each other. Dance in musical theatre is about expression. When a character doesn't have words to describe their thoughts or emotions, they sing it. And when singing isn't enough, they dance.

# CHOREOGRAPHER CRAZZE



**JEROME ROBBINS**

A praised choreographer and director, Robbins utilized dance to propel the story forward. As seen in *West Side Story*, the conflict in the prologue is told through dance. Other original shows he choreographed included *Peter Pan*, *Gypsy*, and *Bells Are Ringing*. Robbins also directed and choreographed the original Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.



**AGNES DE MILLE**

Already familiar with the theatre and ballet, Agnes de Mille made her mark choreographing famous Rodgers and Hammerstein's musicals such as *Oklahoma!* and *Carousel*. She was known to use dance as a communication tool, rather than just to entertain.



**MICHAEL KIDD**

Taking his inspiration and style from Robbins and de Mille before him, Michael Kidd gave his dances more jazz essence. He is known for choreographing *Guys and Dolls*, *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*, and *Hello Dolly!* Kidd won 5 Tony Awards during his theatrical career even though the majority of his work was seen in the movie industry.

# DANCING DEEPER:

## The Dream Ballet

A dream ballet is exactly how it sounds. It's a moment in the show where a character will go into a daydream about their future or their wishes. Oftentimes it will reveal a character's deepest wants and deepest fears. This is represented through ballet, using look-alike actors rather than the main players as the dancers. Though the dream ballet had been seen and utilized previously, Agnes De Mille's iconic dream ballet in *Oklahoma!* was truly revolutionary and unlike any before. "The dream ballet exposes a psychological dimension of Laurey otherwise unavailable to the audience. Words alone, whether sung or spoken, could never have achieved this psychological depth with such grace or immediacy. The dream ballet elevated the role of dance in musical theater." - pg. 18, *American Musical Theater*



Check out the dream ballets in *Oklahoma!* and *Carousel*, both choreographed by Agnes de Mille.  
Just click on the thumbnails!



# CARLEE'S TOP 3

## GOLDEN AGE DANCES

1



**Moses Supposes**

*Singin' In The Rain*

Choreographed By: Gene Kelly & Stanley Donen

2



**Dance At The Gym (Mambo)**

*West Side Story*

Dance Choreographed By: Peter Gennaro

3



**The Barn Dance**

*Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*

Choreographed By: Michael Kidd

There are so many dances that I could have highlighted. However, these three dances in particular are so unique and fun that I chose them to share. Click on each picture to see the dance!

## SOURCES

---

Culwell-Block, Logan. *Playbill*, 17 Nov. 2017, [www.playbill.com/article/broadway-101-10-choreographers-every-broadway-history-nerd-should-know](http://www.playbill.com/article/broadway-101-10-choreographers-every-broadway-history-nerd-should-know).

Leve, James. *American Musical Theater*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Soloski, Alexis. *The Guardian*, 17 Feb. 2020, [www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/feb/17/west-side-story-broadway-new-york-ivo-van-hove-anne-teresa-de-keersmaecker-violence](http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/feb/17/west-side-story-broadway-new-york-ivo-van-hove-anne-teresa-de-keersmaecker-violence).

*The Kennedy Center*, [www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/agnes-de-mille--rodeo/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/agnes-de-mille--rodeo/).

Whiting, Barbara. *Pinterest*, [www.pinterest.com/pin/521713938055642485/](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/521713938055642485/).

All other graphics were used from free stock image site: [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)