



“The Laird Technique of Latin Dancing”

Author Walter Laird

Review August 2021 by Denis Parfyonov

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The author of the book Walter William Laird "Wally" (July 1926 - May 2002), three times World Latin Dance Champion paired with Lorraine Reynolds, Fellow and Examiner of the International Dance Teachers Council, was a major influence on the development of Latin dance in Great Britain.

The first edition of the book was published in 1961. After that, until today there have been a lot of reprints with additions and updates of information. The seventh, relevant today, edition was published in 2014 and consists of 260 pages.

In his book, the author very clearly, accurately and logically presents the principles and techniques of Latin dances. Laird's book is used all over the world to educate dancers, students, teachers and trainers, and is the logical foundation of training programs designed for both novice dancers and reigning world champions.

The book can be divided into 6 parts: five of them describe in detail the dances of the Latin American program (cha-cha-cha, samba, rumba, pasodoble and jive), and the sixth explains the positions in a couple that are common to all dances.

Each edition of the book came out with updated illustrations. For the first editions, the author himself posed in a couple with his partner, the latest editions came out with photographs of today's champions. A video series of five DVDs has also been released.

The book has been officially translated into many languages, including Russian. It is possible to highlight the translation of the 1997 edition under the direction of Arkady Belogorodsky, published in two parts in 2003. And the translation by L.D. Vesnovsky, consisting of 6 parts.

The Laird Technique of Latin Dancing can deservedly be considered a reference book for all dancers and their trainers. The Ballroom Library highly recommends reading it.

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The new review will be in October 2021...