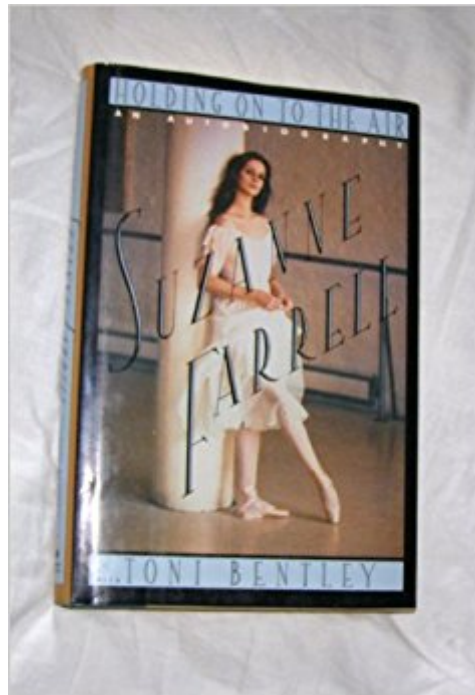




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# Holding On To The Air: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

This dramatic, candid memoir tells the exciting and moving story of Suzanne Farrell's rise from a shy Midwestern girl to one of the greatest dancers of the 20th century. Whether writing about the exhilaration of working and training with George Balanchine, the internationally acclaimed choreographer, or about the triumph of dancing again after hip replacement surgery, this is indeed a fascinating story of a remarkable woman. 16 pages of photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Farrell, for years the chief muse of New York City Ballet cofounder and master choreographer George Balanchine, has led an extraordinary, frequently controversial life. Here with former NYCB dancer Bentley, she tells of it with humility, integrity, wit and sophistication. Farrell's is first of all a classically American story of a self-made woman: growing up a tomboy and a dance student in a broken home in Cincinnati, Ohio, she struck out at 15 for Manhattan with her mother and sisters on the chance that she might be accepted into the famed School of American Ballet. Discovered, aesthetically molded and eventually wooed by Russian-born Balanchine, she left NYCB in 1969 after it became apparent that her husband, dancer Paul Mejia, could have no career there so long as Mr. B.'s jealous moods prevailed. Farrell returned to the company in 1974 and retired in 1989 at the age of 44, one of the century's greatest ballerinas. The details of her decades as a dancer vie in interest here with those of her private self; she is both discreet and incisive in her views of on- and offstage events. Photos not seen by PW. BOMC alternate. Copyright 1990 Reed Business

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The dance world has been waiting to hear Farrell's story ever since this noted ballerina retired from the New York City Ballet in 1989, six years after the death of NYCB director George Balanchine, acknowledged choreographic genius of this century. As Balanchine's muse and center of his attentions, she collaborated with him in the creation of his most enduring ballets. Though she could not reciprocate in kind when he fell in love with her, she speaks with real feeling of their mutual devotion, which found its physical consummation in their work together at the ballet studio and in her performances for him onstage. The book's highest appeal will be to the dance audience; ballet students and fans will find it fascinating. It is essential for any performing arts collections. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/90.- Sheila Riley, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I'm glad this out of this world Prima ballerina came forward to tell the all the contributions Balanchine did for American Ballet. Every story has 3 sides: how the parties involved perceived, and the truth

An incredible book! I couldn't put it down. Truly inspirational as a dancer and also as a woman. My very favorite book on the subject/

Well written and very sincere approach to deep thoughts.

Intriguing and poignant account of a ballet icon!

I wanted the Kindle version, but apparently there's still glitches to be ironed out in that format based on the reviews. Fascinating book. Farrell is also available dancing on dvd, but the costs of that dvd are extraordinary: the cheapest one I saw was over \$349; the next cheapest over \$700. Am giving the hardback book to a dancer friend for Christmas along with a Tanaquil Leclercq dvd entitled "Afternoon of a Faun" (spectacular dvd).

It reads a bit like a teen diary, but love the descriptions of Balanchine's great works.

I've read this a couple of times now. Super interesting for you dancers out there. Such an interesting lifestyle... makes me want to pick it up and read it again.

Well written

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