



# Rudolf Laban: The Dancer of the Crystal

*Evelyn Dörr*

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Rudolf Laban, the famed dancer-choreographer and 'founding father' of modern dance, also had experience as a painter, sculptor, and architect, and allowed those skills to influence his innovative choreographic techniques. His important works and his creation of one of the most significant forms of dance notation make him an essential component of dance history. *Rudolf Laban: The Dancer of the Crystal* examines Laban's training, his teaching experiences, and the discovery and development of his principles of form and movement, paying special attention to his choreographic and philosophical work. Author Evelyn Doerr presents intriguing tidbits of the artist's experience, such as Laban's ambivalent position as the 'dance organizer' of the Nazi party in Germany, embedded in a historical and philosophical context, offering insights to his choreographic processes and the events that shaped his life.

The book presents the different stages and elements of Laban's choreography discussing, for example, Laban's "dance-sound-word" instructional approach, his concept of the "movement choir" and examples of its realization, the concepts of *eukinetics* and *choreutics*, and a description of how these subjects were taught in Laban's school. Doerr also analyzes important elements in Laban's theories of spatial harmony and of effort, and she investigates his various early systems of dance notation, leading to a detailed explanation of kinetography, Laban's final notational system. A complete bibliography and an appendix of works choreographed between 1897 and 1936 help make this book an important contribution to Laban scholarship and to the dance, theater, and cultural history of Europe in the first half of the 20th century.



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