

Fosse Sam Wasson

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Fosse Sam Wasson, born on March 17, 1945, was an American choreographer, director, and dancer who revolutionized the world of stage and screen with his distinctive and innovative style. His groundbreaking work in Broadway musicals and films earned him immense acclaim and cemented his place as a true icon in the entertainment industry. This biographical exploration delves into the life, career, and lasting legacy of Fosse Sam Wasson, uncovering his creative brilliance and the impact he had on the art form of dance.

Early Life and Training:

Fosse Sam Wasson's journey into the world of dance began at the tender age of 12, when he enrolled in a ballet class in his hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah. His natural talent and passion for dance quickly became apparent, and he soon began pursuing a rigorous training regimen. Wasson studied ballet, jazz, and modern dance, honing his technical skills and developing a deep understanding of the art form.



Fosse by Sam Wasson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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X-Ray : Enabled
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Broadway Debut and Collaborative Triumphs:

In 1965, Wasson made his Broadway debut as a dancer in the musical "The Pajama Game." His exceptional abilities and captivating stage presence caught the attention of legendary choreographer Bob Fosse, who became his mentor and collaborator. Wasson played a pivotal role in Fosse's groundbreaking productions, including "Sweet Charity" (1966), "Pippin" (1972), and "Chicago" (1975).

Signature Choreography and Directorial Vision:

Fosse Sam Wasson's unique style was characterized by intricate footwork, sharp isolations, and angular arm movements. His choreography often conveyed a sense of both sensuality and energy, creating an unforgettable and immersive experience for audiences. As a director, Wasson brought his distinctive vision to the stage, crafting innovative productions that showcased the full potential of dance and theater.

Collaboration with Bob Fosse:

Wasson's long-standing partnership with Bob Fosse yielded some of the most iconic moments in Broadway history. Together, they created the legendary production of "Chicago," which went on to win six Tony Awards and become one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history. Wasson also choreographed Fosse's last film, "Star 80" (1983).

Hollywood Success and International Acclaim:

In addition to his Broadway triumphs, Wasson ventured into the world of film and television. He choreographed several Hollywood productions, including "All That Jazz" (1979), "Lenny" (1974), and "The Goodbye Girl" (1977). His work on "All That Jazz" earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Choreography. Wasson also directed several television specials and worked as a guest choreographer on numerous television shows.

Pedagogical Legacy and Influence:

Beyond his stage and screen accomplishments, Fosse Sam Wasson was also a respected educator and teacher. He founded the Fosse Verdon Dance Center in New York City and taught workshops and master classes at dance schools and studios around the world. His teachings have influenced countless dancers and choreographers, passing down his unique style and artistic legacy.

The Fosse Brand and Enduring Legacy:

Fosse Sam Wasson's name has become synonymous with a particular style of choreography and stagecraft. His work has been preserved and celebrated through various projects, including the creation of the Fosse Verdon Museum and the licensing of his choreography to other productions. The "Fosse Brand" continues to be a symbol of excellence and innovation in the world of dance.

Personal Life and Family:

Fosse Sam Wasson was married to Ann Verdon, an actress and dancer who starred in many of his productions. Together, they had two children.

Wasson passed away on March 15, 2009, at the age of 63, leaving behind a vast and influential body of work.

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Fosse Sam Wasson was a visionary choreographer, director, and dancer who forever transformed the landscape of Broadway and beyond. His distinctive style, collaborative triumphs, and pedagogical legacy have cemented his place as a true icon in the entertainment industry. Through his masterful choreography and innovative direction, Wasson created unforgettable moments that continue to inspire and captivate audiences around the world. His work serves as a testament to the enduring power of dance and the transformative impact that true artistry can have on our lives.

Additional Resources:

- Fosse Verdon Dance Center: <https://www.fosseverdondancecenter.com/>
- The Fosse Verdon Museum: <https://www.foseverdonmuseum.com/>
- Broadway Production Credits: <https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/fosse-sam-wasson-29716>



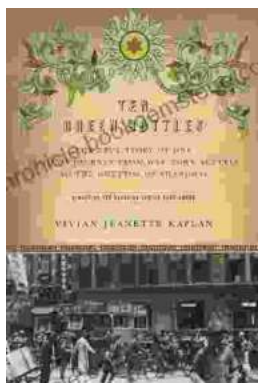
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