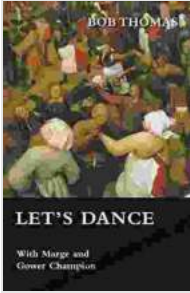


Let's Dance with Marge and Gower Champion: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Legendary Dance Couple



**Let's Dance - With Marge and Gower Champion as Told
to Bob Thomas** by Nina Montgomery

★★★★★ 5 out of 5



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A Glimpse into a Dance Dynasty

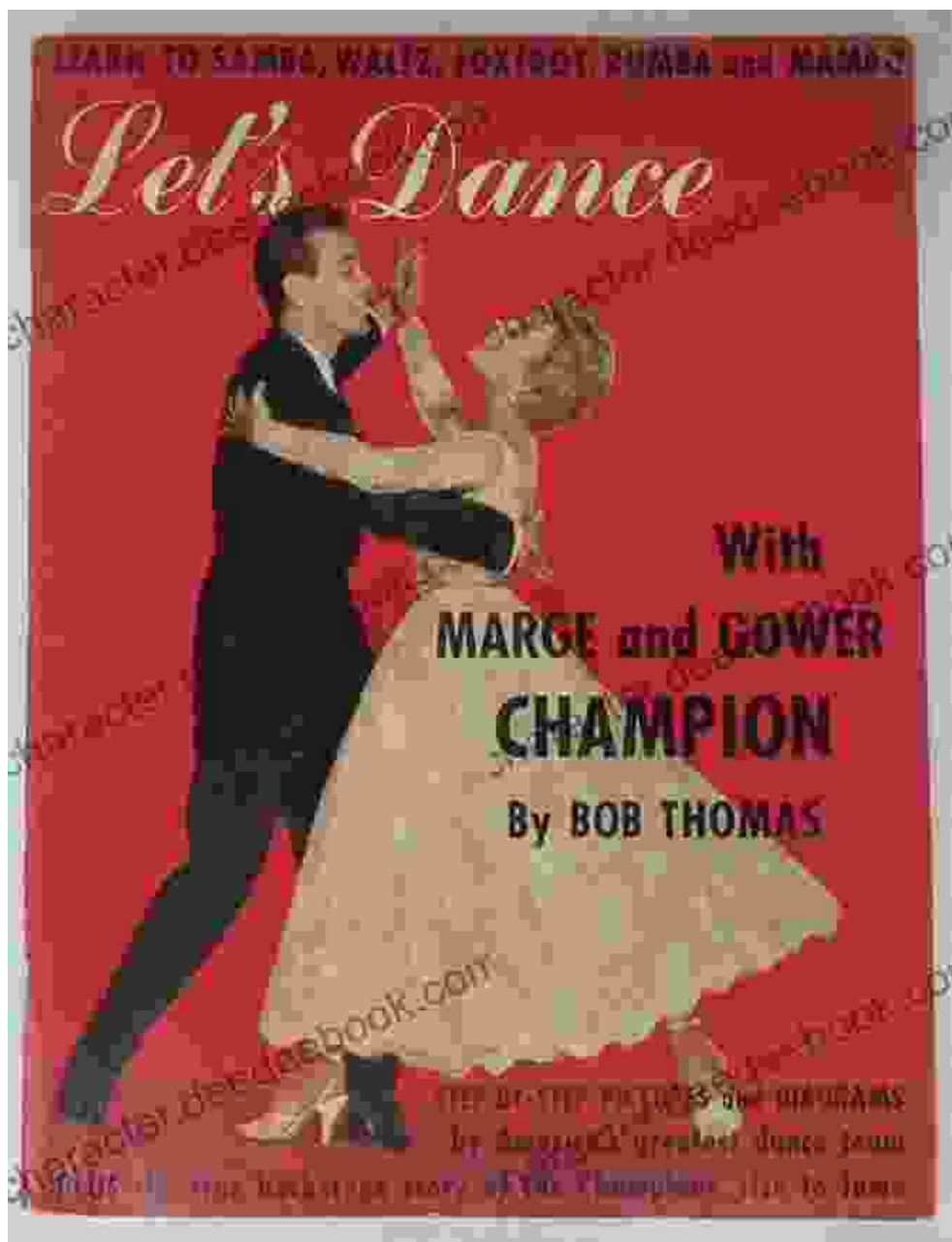
In the annals of dance history, the names Marge and Gower Champion resonate with brilliance. As a couple, they revolutionized the art form, leaving an indelible mark on Broadway, Hollywood, and beyond. Their extraordinary partnership, chronicled in their captivating autobiography, 'Let's Dance,' offers a tantalizing glimpse into their world of passion, innovation, and enduring love.

Early Days and Blossoming Talent

Marjorie Celeste Belcher (later known as Marge) and Gower Champion, Jr. were born in California just a few years apart. Marge's natural grace and love for dance manifested at an early age, and she received formal training under the renowned dance instructor Ernest Belcher. Gower, on the other hand, initially pursued tap dancing as a hobby before discovering his innate talent for choreography.

Their paths crossed at a dance competition in 1941, and sparks flew instantly. They realized their shared passion for dance and began

collaborating on various projects. Their innovative choreography and magnetic stage presence soon caught the attention of Hollywood producers, and they made their debut in the 1945 film 'Till the Clouds Roll By,' showcasing their dazzling tap-dancing skills.



Broadway Bound: Crafting Legendary Shows

In the late 1940s, Marge and Gower turned their sights to Broadway, where they would leave an enduring legacy. They choreographed and starred in a string of critically acclaimed musicals, including 'Lend an Ear' (1948), 'Make a Wish' (1951), and 'Bye Bye Birdie' (1960). Their work was characterized by its exuberant energy, impeccable timing, and seamless integration of dance into the narrative.

One of their most iconic choreographies, "Baby It's Cold Outside," became an instant classic and continues to be performed by countless dance couples today. Their ability to create memorable dance numbers that perfectly complemented the music and lyrics made them the darlings of Broadway.

Hollywood's Golden Age and Cinematic Masterpieces

Marge and Gower's success on Broadway paved the way for their Hollywood careers. They starred in numerous films together, showcasing their versatility and captivating dance routines. Their most notable works include 'Show Boat' (1951), 'Everything I Have Is Yours' (1952), and 'Three for the Show' (1955).

In 'Show Boat,' they played the iconic roles of Gaylord and Magnolia Ravenal, bringing the beloved musical to life with their emotional performances and stunning dance sequences. Their waltz scene, in particular, became a cinematic masterpiece, demonstrating their exquisite grace and undeniable chemistry.

Innovation and Timeless Influence

Throughout their careers, Marge and Gower were relentless innovators who pushed the boundaries of dance. They experimented with different

styles, incorporating elements of ballet, jazz, and modern dance into their work. Their choreography was known for its intricate footwork, dynamic leaps, and expressive storytelling.

Their influence on the dance world continues to this day. Many renowned dancers and choreographers cite Marge and Gower as their inspiration, and their work has been referenced and celebrated in numerous dance productions and documentaries. Their legacy as pioneers in the field of dance is secure.

Personal Journey and Enduring Love

Beyond their professional achievements, Marge and Gower's personal journey was one of love, support, and mutual admiration. Their partnership was both on and off the stage, and their bond remained strong throughout their lives. They raised a family together and remained devoted to each other until Gower's untimely passing in 1980.

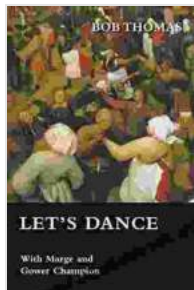


Legacy and Lasting Impact

Marge and Gower Champion's impact on dance cannot be overstated. They were virtuosic dancers, visionary choreographers, and charismatic performers who left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment. Through their groundbreaking work, they inspired generations of dancers and choreographers and brought joy to countless audiences.

Their autobiography, 'Let's Dance,' is a fascinating read for anyone interested in dance history, Broadway, or Hollywood's golden age. It offers

a rare glimpse into the lives and work of two legendary figures who revolutionized the art form through their passion, creativity, and unwavering love for each other.



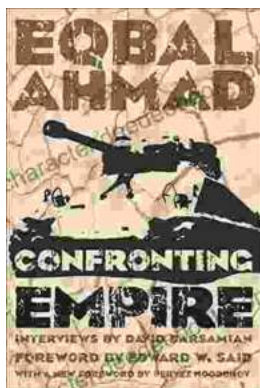
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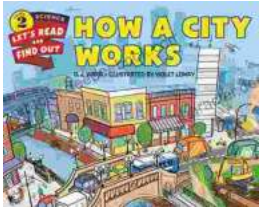
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