

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

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JULES PERROT

Jules Perrot was born in France in 1810. He studied with Auguste Vestris and Salvatore Vigano, two of the principal exponents of expressive ballet (as opposed to pure or formal ballet). He made his debut in 1830 at the Paris Opera, where he was highly applauded for both his classical and mime dancing. A combination of knee trouble and the professional jealousy of his frequent partner, Marie Taglioni, led to his resignation in 1835. He then toured Europe as a dancer and choreographer in Naples with the young ballerina Carlotta Grisi, whom he trained and later married. Both returned to Paris in 1840, where Perrot danced once more; however, only Grisi was hired to perform at the Paris Opera. Since he frequently arranged her solos, his choreography is now believed include that of her title role in *Giselle*, which she originated in 1841 and is still considered a consummate challenge to a ballerina's artistry. However, Jean Coralli received the official credit for choreographing *Giselle*.

From 1842 to 1848, Perrot worked in London, making it an important ballet center by choreographing such ballets as *Ondine*, *Esmerelda*, and the *Pas de Quatre*, staged for Marie Taglioni, Carlotta Grisi, Lucile Grahn, and Fanny Cerrito. In 1848 Perrot became *premier danseur* at the Imperial Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he created eight more ballets and revived many others.

Perrot died in France on August 24, 1892.