

## Vernon and Irene Castle: The Ragtime Revolution That Changed American Dance



[Vernon and Irene Castle's Ragtime Revolution](#) by Eve Golden

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Vernon and Irene Castle were the most famous and influential dancers of the early 20th century. They popularized ragtime music and dance, and their innovations changed the way Americans danced forever.

Vernon Castle was born in Norwich, England, in 1887. He began dancing at a young age, and by the time he was in his early twenties, he was one of the most popular dancers in England. Irene Foote was born in New York City in 1893. She began dancing at the age of four, and by the time she was in her late teens, she was one of the most promising young dancers in America.

Vernon and Irene met in 1911, and they were married a year later. They quickly became one of the most popular dance teams in the world. They toured Europe and America, and their performances were always met with rave reviews.

The Castles were known for their innovative dance style. They combined elements of ragtime, ballet, and ballroom dancing to create a new style that was both graceful and exciting. They also popularized new steps, such as the Castle Walk and the Maxixe.

The Castles' influence on American dance was profound. They helped to make ragtime music popular, they introduced new dance steps that became standard repertoire for dancers of all levels. They also helped to break down the barriers between social classes in dance. Before the Castles, dancing was primarily the domain of the wealthy. However, the Castles' performances made dance accessible to people of all backgrounds.

The Castles' career was cut short by Vernon's death in a plane crash in 1918. Irene continued to dance for a few years, but she retired in 1923. She died in 1969.

The Castles' legacy lives on. They are still considered to be one of the most important dance teams in American history. Their innovations changed the way Americans danced, and their influence can still be seen in dance today.

### **Vernon and Irene Castle: Ragtime Revolutionaries**

In 1914, Vernon and Irene Castle published a dance instruction book called "Modern Dancing." The book was a huge success, and it helped to spread the Castles' influence even further. The book featured sixty dance steps, from the Castle Walk to the Maxixe, and over 100 original photographs that captured the Castles performing in public and at home with their children.

The "Modern Dancing" book was a groundbreaking work. It was one of the first books to document the dance steps that were emerging in the early 20th century. The book also provided valuable insights into the Castles' teaching methods. The book was an essential resource for dancers of all levels, and it is still used by dancers today.

Vernon and Irene Castle were true pioneers of American dance. They helped to popularize ragtime music, they introduced new dance steps, and they helped to break down the barriers between social classes in dance. Their legacy lives on, and they continue to inspire dancers of all ages.

### **Call to Action**

If you are interested in learning more about Vernon and Irene Castle, I encourage you to read their dance instruction book, "Modern Dancing." The book is a fascinating glimpse into the world of early 20th century dance, and it is still a valuable resource for dancers today.

You can also find more information about the Castles on the website of the Vernon and Irene Castle Society. The society is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Castles, and the website includes a wealth of information about their lives and careers.



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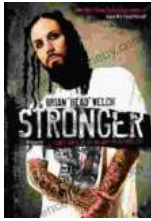
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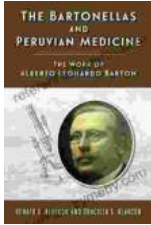
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