

For my choreographer of choice I choose George Balanchine because I thought it would be interesting to learn how he choreographed dances since his technique and pieces are well known all around the world and are still used to this day. Balanchine developed a distinct technical style to accommodate his choreography. He stressed precise musical timing and emphasized phrasing and syncopation in his classes. He asked for longer lines, deeper lunges and a more open arabesque. While Balanchine was choreographing, in his first American Ballet, *Serenade*, he put elements into his ballet that came simply from events in rehearsals. One day one of the girls came in late and it later became the entrance for the Waltz girls. It has been said that this was classic Balanchine, he created spontaneously as if he did not need to put any thought into it whatsoever. Martha Graham once said of Balanchine's creative process, "It's like watching light pass through a prism. The music passes through him, and in the same natural yet marvelous way that a prism refracts light, he refracts music into dance.

You would think that someone like Balanchine would have everything planned out and would have a set idea of what he wanted to do before he went and taught his dancers. It is amazing to see how he was inspired by the little things around him and how he did not have every single ballet planned out step by step. He just went with what he had and created beautiful things on the spot and that is something that not everyone can do. There are so many well known choreographers all around the world that look up to him and follow his ideas, his technique, and his creative process. He was also the one that changed everyone's perspective on what a true ballerina should look like, and that is still the way that some companies want their ballerinas to look like. I know that if I was to choreograph a piece I would have everything planned out ahead of time because I would need to do some planning to get all of my ideas together to figure out what it is I really want my dance to be, what I want my audience to feel when they are watching the dance and how I want my dancers to perform it. And to see Balanchine just come up with the steps on the spot like that and him creating some amazingly beautiful pieces without any planning, is truly incredible.