

# Ninette de Valois

## Quotes

*Dance, Ballet, School, Feet, Firsts, Country, Art, Dancing, Way, Fours, Gnarly,  
Sopranos, Something New, World, Learning, Singing, Together, Lasts, Not  
Good Enough, Voice*

Classical ballet will never die.

~Ninette de Valois

God gave us all exactly the same fingers, arms, legs, and feet, but in our different countries we divided them all a little differently as we feel it, do you understand?

~Ninette de Valois

You cannot create genius. All you can do is nurture it.

~Ninette de Valois

Hardly any generation wants to take the whole of the last generation, it just wants to take its best bits.

~Ninette de Valois

And then you have the classical ballerinas, they're like sopranos. Applied to the dance.

~Ninette de Valois

First of all, the most important, that is to learn everything good that has survived from other times, and carefully to watch the bad - and throw it out.

~Ninette de Valois

You never advance without losing something en passant... you lose it because you're paying so much attention to the new thing.

~Ninette de Valois

Somebody must always be doing something new, or life would get very dull.

~Ninette de Valois

As time goes on, all schools only get left alive if they have found something special themselves.

~Ninette de Valois

Nothing is done easily, first have the thing, then the thing has a success, then all sorts of difficulties arise through the success.

~Ninette de Valois

The smile is the dance of the face - the dance is the smile of the limbs.

~Ninette de Valois

You can't dance until you've learnt steps, the things your feet can do.

~Ninette de Valois

The best way to study is to go to the Cecchetti method for about a year and draw onto all the highest points and then put that into the general method.

~Ninette de Valois

It's either not good enough and dies altogether, or it develops.

~Ninette de Valois

No no, we ALL teach each other, whether it's dancing, whether it's singing, whether it's talking, we all listen to each other. That's progress.

~Ninette de Valois

Nearly everything in life goes in threes and fours.

~Ninette de Valois

There would never have been a British Ballet without Diaghilev. He had a wonderful influence

~Ninette de Valois

It is a fact that all the ballet's fundamental dance steps are derived from the folk dances of Western Europe.

~Ninette de Valois

Diaghilev was the first to notice good character dancers and that sort of thing.

~Ninette de Valois

There's nothing in the world that isn't good, bad, and indifferent.

~Ninette de Valois

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