

## Topic Page: [Duncan, Isadora \(1877 - 1927\)](#)

Definition: **Duncan, Isadora** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

US dancer, pioneer of modern dance. She achieved fame in Europe for her emotional, expressive style. Duncan died tragically when her scarf caught in the wheel of her car and strangled her. She wrote an autobiography, *My Life* (1926-27).

Summary Article: **Duncan, Isadora**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(ˈɪzˈədɔrˈə dʊŋgˈkən), 1878–1927, American dancer, b. San Francisco. She had little success in the United States when she first created dances based on Greek classical art. But in Budapest (1903), Berlin (1904), and later in London and New York City (1908), she triumphed. An innovator, pioneer, and liberator of expressive movement, she was inspired by the drama of ancient Greece. She danced barefoot to music that was often not written to be danced. Her costume, a revealing adaptation of the Greek tunic, was complemented by several colored scarves draped from her shoulders. Through her many tours, her schools in Berlin, Paris, Moscow, and London, and her daring and dynamic personality, she greatly influenced the development of modern dance. She was briefly (1922–23) married to the Russian poet Sergei Yesenin. In 1927 she gave her last concert in Paris; she died when her scarf caught in the wheel of her car while she was motoring at Nice.

See her autobiography (1927, repr. 1966) and *The Art of The Dance*, ed. by Cheney, S. (1928, repr. 1970);

biographies by I. Duncan (1958), W. Terry (1964), V. Seroff (1971), F. Blair (1987), and P. Kurth (2001).

### **APA**

Chicago

Harvard

MLA

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Duncan, Isadora. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan\\_isadora\\_1877\\_1927](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan_isadora_1877_1927)

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## APA

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## Chicago

"Duncan, Isadora." In *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, by Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University. 8th ed. Columbia University Press, 2018. [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan\\_isadora\\_1877\\_1927](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan_isadora_1877_1927)

## Harvard

Duncan, Isadora. (2018). In P. Lagasse & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia*. (8th ed.). [Online]. New York: Columbia University Press. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan\\_isadora\\_1877\\_1927](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan_isadora_1877_1927) [Accessed 13 November 2019].

## MLA

"Duncan, Isadora." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan\\_isadora\\_1877\\_1927](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/duncan_isadora_1877_1927). Accessed 13 Nov. 2019.