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## Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson (English Edition)

Von Jim Haskins, N.R. Mitgang  
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Von Jim Haskins, N.R. Mitgang : Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An American Original Von Michael Paxton "Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson" not only serves as a crucial historical document, but also as a vivid portrait of a truly special man. An original in every sense of the word, Bill

Robinson created a unique style of tap dancing, along with breaking the racist barriers of his time. This book superbly chronicles (with the help of first-hand source materials and interviews with people who knew him) the life of this incredible artist, entertainer, and humanitarian. You will not only learn what the world was like when Mr. Robinson struggled in his craft, but you will discover the values and convictions that drove him forward. You will be moved by the benevolence of this man's spirit--a spirit that could coin a phrase such as "Everything's Copasetic!" This is a touching and informative biography that informs the evolution of tap AND the human experience.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A living legend comes to life!Von Ein KundeYou can't find anything better if you're looking for information on the great Mr. Bojangles.

KurzbeschreibungOver sixty years after his death, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson is still the most famous tap dancer who ever lived. Robinson was the first black single dancer to star in white vaudeville circuits and he was a headliner for nearly thirty years. He got top billing at the Palace in New York, and he played command performances for kings and presidents.This first full-length biography reveals the charmer, gambler, brawler, athlete, and consummate entertainer behind the crusade for actors' rights, who pushed past the color barrier in the first half of the twentieth century. Haskins and Mitgang, with access to many of the people who knew Bojangles best, and to his scrapbooks and personal papers, have created a vivid portrait of the man behind the myth, from his birth in Richmond, Virginia, to his death and the star-studded funeral where he was eulogized by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and Ed Sullivan.When people talk about famous American freedom fighters they talk about Rosa Parks, a brave woman who took a seat in the front of a bus and broke it down. They talk about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They talk about Jackie Robinson. They talk about many others who sacrificed to achieve equality and justice.The person they don't talk about is the man who helped to break down vaudeville, Broadway, the recording industry, radio, television, and Hollywood. They dont talk about the man who broke down Miami and was responsible for its first integrated audience. They dont talk about the man who was responsible for the hiring of the first African-American on the Dallas police force. They dont talk about the man who went to F.D.R. during World War II for changes for African-American soldiers who were risking their lives for their country. They dont talk about the freedom fighter, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who happened to be the worlds greatest tap dancer of his day.Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., one of Harlem's greatest leaders and freedom fighters, and Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, helped to answer that question when he eulogized Bojangles in 1949. Rev. Powell said:Born within the shadow of slavery and dying at the middle of the twentieth century, the most glorious century of mankind, Bill Robinson was a legend.He was a legend because he was ageless and raceless.Bill wasn't a credit to his race, meaning the Negro race. Bill was a credit to the human race.No Protestant ever appeared at more benefits for Catholics than Bill Robinson. No gentile ever appeared at more benefits for Jews than Bill Robinson.He was raceless.He was not a great Negro dancer; he was the world's greatest dancer.In some way the legend got around that Bill Robinson was an Uncle Tom. Oh, no!You didn't know Bill if you heard of that story!So, lets ask the question again. Why don't people think of Bill Robinson as an American hero and front-line freedom fighter? They one word answer is simple racism. Not the racism of white against black, but the racism of black against black. The people he fought for the most turned their backs on Bill Robinson and let the cancer of racism enter his legacy."Bojangles " was the Mayor of Harlem and a founding member of the Rainbow Coalition long before the term was coined. Bill Robinson fought for respect with every weapon he had his charming smile, his humor, his dancing feet, his fists, or his gold plated pearl handled gun given to him by the New York City Police Department.During a time when too few African-American voices shouted for justice, Bill Robinsons whispers were heard by presidents, governors, kings, queens, and countless others. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was a man who fought dignity for himself, and others.Bill Bojangles Robinson stood up to fight for what was right from the onset of his sixty-year career. He demanded justice and equality as a performer, and as a man. He stood up then, and never sat down.KurzbeschreibungOver sixty years after his death, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson is still the most famous tap dancer who ever lived. Robinson was the first black single dancer to star in white vaudeville circuits and he was a headliner for nearly thirty years. 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Autorenkommentar Description, s Author bios He was a legend because he was raceless. He was not a great Negro dancer, he was the world's greatest dancer. Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. More than fifty years after his death in 1949, Bill Bojangles Robinson is still the most famous tap dancer who ever lived, immortalized in the song Mr. Bojangles, fondly remembered as Shirley Temple's dance partner in three of her films, and the subject of a Fred Astaire dance routine, Bojangles of Harlem. Robinson was the first black single dancer to star in white vaudeville circuits, for nearly thirty years as a headliner. Not only did he get top billing at the Palace in New York, he also played command performances for kings, presidents, and lesser folk. He appeared on radio and television, and played to packed houses on Broadway. Mr. Bojangles, the first full-length biography of Bill Robinson, reveals the charmer, gambler, brawler, athlete, consummate entertainer, and crusader for actors' rights behind the man who pushed past the color barrier in the first half of the 20th century. Haskins and Mitgang, with access to many of the people who knew Bojangles best as well as to his scrapbooks and personal papers, have created a vivid portrait of the man behind the myth, from his birth in Richmond, Virginia to his death and his funeral, where Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Jackie Robinson and Irving Berlin were among the honorary pallbearers. Biographer Jim Haskins and the theater historian N. R. Mitgang give us a Bo who challenged the white entertainment establishment and succeeded in opening doors for his race ... One of the real accomplishments of this book is the devastating image it presents of the obstacles faced by a black performer in the first half of this century. The Bill Robinson who emerges from this study is an odd mixture of legend and flesh and blood. The New York Times (Robinson's) life story, as recounted by Haskins and Mitgang with complete cooperation from the dancer's family and friends, stands as a moving study in bravery and a melancholy portrait of thwarted possibilities.

Booklist JAMES HASKINS is one of the world's foremost experts on African-American cultural history. A professor at the University of Florida, he lives in Gainesville and New York City. He is the author notably of Mr. Bojangles (with N. R. Mitgang), Bricktop, Black Dance in America, Black Music in America, Mabel (with Helen Crothers), all available from Welcome Rain. N. R. MITGANG is a black theater historian who has served on the executive board of the Negro Actors Guild, and has acted as a consultant for the Smithsonian, Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts, and the New York Archives. He lives in New York.