

# "Speak to Me, Dance with Me"

Reviewed by Dorothy Sara

Agnes de Mille's recently published book is a dramatic and moving memoir. In engagingly eloquent style, it tells the touching story of the anguish, the misgivings, and the perseverance of a young artist trying to make her way to the top in the ballet and theatrical worlds of London, New York, and Hollywood during the depression years of 1932 - 1935. Driven by the intensity and dedication she inherited from her grandfather, Henry George, she was determined to make her mark in her chosen field.

Much of the book consists of letters written by the author to her mother, Anna George de Mille, describing the tribulations she experienced as a young dancer in a strange country. Of special interest are Ms. de Mille's accounts of many dancers and choreographers then at the outset of their careers, who, like herself, have since become world-famous.

She also writes feelingly of her meeting many "Single Taxers" in Britain and Europe, who were friends of her mother, and some of whom had been contemporaries of Henry George. Further evidencing her life-long interest in her grandfather's ideals, the author devotes the last pages of her book to a reprint of George's "The Single Tax: What it is and Why we Urge it."

*Speak to Me, Dance with Me* is a powerful portrait of a young woman with vast talent and unbounded energy. It successfully conveys the essence of the author's profound need to dance, and penetratingly reveals the anatomy of genius, not only that of Agnes de Mille, but also of those with whom she worked. It is a book having appeal not only for those interested in dance and theatre, or those interested in the Georgist philosophy, but to all who admire the pluck of a gifted young woman carving out a distinguished career.

*SPEAK TO ME, DANCE WITH ME. By Agnes de Mille. Illustrated, 404 pp. New York, Atlantic - Little Brown. Cloth-bound, \$8.95.*

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# Oscar B. Johannsen

## An Affectionate Profile

Considering his youthfulness, his enthusiasm, his energy, and his alert inquisitiveness, it seems almost droll to refer to Oscar B. Johannsen as an "elder statesman." Yet he certainly has earned that title, after forty years of active involvement in the Georgist movement. But what makes him worthy of the honor is not so much the duration of his devoted service, as it is the quality of his devotion and the extent of his accomplishments.

Now, as in the past, Oscar continues to give generously of his talents as teacher, writer, speaker, and administrator. He is president of the Henry George School of New Jersey, as well as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. At the New York Henry George School this fall he will give a course on "Money and Banking," subjects on which he has become an acknowledged specialist.

For many years he has taught classes at the New Jersey HGS; and he has contributed many articles to its publication, *The Gargoyle*. Characteristically responding to any call from those sharing his principles, Oscar is also an editor of *Fragments*, and a director of the Henry George Institute. (Believe it or not, in his "spare" time, O.B. is working toward a Doctorate in Philosophy.)

In an effort to gain a wider audience for the Georgist viewpoint, he has taken to the hustings and is currently running for State Senator in New Jersey's 20th Legislative District, as an independent on a ticket labeled "the Individualist Candidate."

One of the products of Oscar's prolific pen is a provocative pamphlet entitled "Private Schools for All," which has had a wide distribution throughout the country. He has also written a book, "Man's Eternal Dilemma," in which he combines Georgist concepts with some fundamental views on money and on government. Regrettably, to date he has been unable to find a publisher willing to put his opus into print. However, with typical Georgist tenacity, he vows to get it before the public even if he is obliged to publish it privately.

It is a privilege to know Oscar B. Johannsen, and it is truly a pleasure. May he long continue his endeavors, and may he enjoy every minute of it.

— S.A.M.