Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson

By Jim Haskins

Linus Multimedia. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 336 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. Over 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 Rev. 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. ...

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Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was the most famous of all African American tap dancers in the twentieth century. Born Luther Robinson in Richmond, Virginia, his parents, Maria and Maxwell Robinson, died in 1885. Young Bill was reared by his grandmother, Bedilia Robinson, who had been a slave. In Richmond, he got the nickname "Bojangles" from "jangler," meaning contentious, and he invented the phrase "Everything's Copasetic," meaning tip-top. Bill Robinson began dancing in local saloons at the age of six. He soon dropped out of school to pursue dancing as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was an iconic African American tap dancer and actor best known for his Broadway performances and film roles. Who Was Bill "Bojangles" Robinson? Broadway legend Bill "Bojangles" Robinson started his career as a vaudeville performer, transitioning to Broadway and to Hollywood films in the 1930s and 1940s. His delicate tap-dance style and cheerful demeanor made Robinson a favorite of both Black and white audiences. He died in New York City on November 25, 1949. Early Life. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson was born Luther Robinson in Richmond. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (born Luther Robinson; May 25, 1878 – November 25, 1949) was an American tap dancer, actor, and singer, the best known and the most highly paid black American entertainer in America during the first half of the 20th century. His long career mirrored changes in American entertainment tastes and technology. His career began in the age of minstrel shows and moved to vaudeville, Broadway theatre, the recording industry, Hollywood films, radio, and television. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson dancing with Shirley Temple, The Little Colonel (1935). Fair use image. Bill Robinson was born in Richmond, Virginia on May 25, 1878 to Maxwell and Maria Robinson. Due to the death of both of his parents when he was an infant, Bill and his younger brother Percy were brought up by his grandmother. Susie Box, "National Tap Dance Day: Resonating Far and Wide" The International Tap Association Newsletter 4:1 (May-June, 1993), James Haskins and N.R. Mitgang, Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson (New York: W. Morrow, 1988); Henry Louis Gates and Cornel West, eds., The African-American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country (New York: Free. Bill Robinson, American dancer of Broadway and Hollywood, best known for his dancing roles with Shirley Temple in films of the 1930s. Robinson's parents having died when he was a child, he was raised by a grandmother and received little formal schooling. He began dancing for pennies at the age of. External Websites. American Tap Dance Foundation - Biography of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. America's Story from America's Library - Biography of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. African American Registry - Biography of Bill Robinson. BlackPast - Biography of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Britannica Websites. Articles from Britannica Encyclopedias for elementary and high school students. Bill Robinson - Student Encyclopedia (Ages 11 and up). WRITTEN BY.