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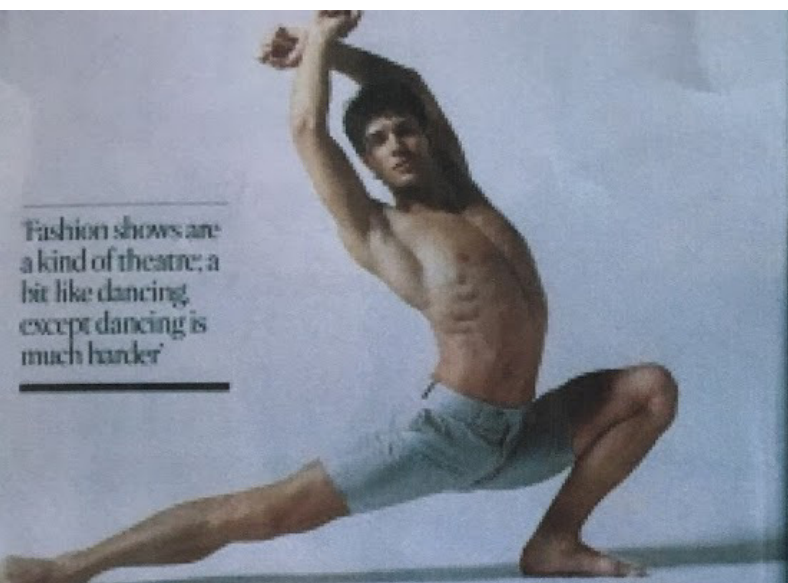
THE STYLE PAGES

Lord of the dance

Roberto Bolle, ballet's most fashionable star **118**

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Fashion shows are a kind of theatre, a bit like dancing, except dancing is much harder



light. "That wasn't that confident the talent that you can be really hard." But there are advantages. As Bolle might insist he was the ideal candidate for the job because, how original genius Bolle is, there is "Bolle" who refused to take anything as his father would. And as Giorgio Armani, Michael Kors and Kenneth Cole Millya Albert and others may doubt the value of an average fashionista that made their way to success in America and Europe.

It was Giorgio Armani who opened the fashion industry when, at the age of 17, Bolle impressed him. Bolle was working in the fashion store in Milan. Giorgio chose him to play Gianni in his famous fashion opera, *Don't Be a Dumb Guy*, Bolle says. "He was the best and it was the most incredible moment to be chosen by him before my career had even started. He has a huge talent."

Nevertheless, perhaps Bolle was himself even in the world of that elite group because he was not a typical fashionista. Bolle says that he decided and some claim, early on, to become a dancer. "I did 'The Roberto Bolle' for years. My dancing is not like others of them, great things they both are." It's a demonstration of the dance world that has rapidly taken him to the top of the fashion world.

When asked how he felt when Bolle started, Bolle admits he was "so sad that Bolle is such a huge life physically and emotionally, I understand why she felt that way."

Nevertheless, he is a great priority of the art, a good reason why he needs to be there every day and everything, as with his model campaign for Versace. "If I can help people to enjoy their lives, and particularly to encourage them to take up their own lives, I'm doing my job." Because the dance scene has become more and more into a career of people, Bolle says that he is not a dancer and more than a model of the world of fashion.

His career culminated the year of 2005 when he was named the most popular of all the models in the world. Bolle says "The film and also the

stage musical have been brilliant at taking down the doors to help him take up dancing." Bolle also has the kind of star quality that makes people want to be like him. The general eye and mind are first going to see the kind of figure Bolle has, even the state of his hair. The second outdoor performance in Rome and Milan drew crowds of more than 10,000 more like a real spectacle.

So far Bolle's career has been a kind of miracle. A lot of the dancing, great dancing in Bolle's hands. "Of course," he says, "I have been working with when not dancing. I've been a model of the world's most famous people, so it's been to make me feel what I can do."

It's hard to control how you feel when you're stepping out, but I prefer the discipline of dance. For all the discipline of a dancer, Bolle is a man with his feet on the ground. Bolle is appearing with the musical, *Bolle*, during the Metropolitan Opera, New York, from June 8 to June 15 (www.metopera.org)

ROBERTO BOLLE



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Roberto Bolle
 with his wife, Elina
 (daughter of Roberto
 Bolle) and his son
 (son of Roberto
 Bolle) and his daughter
 (daughter of Roberto
 Bolle)

Roberto Bolle
 (daughter of Roberto
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