



George Platt Lynes, *Dancing Boys from "Four Saints in Three Acts,"* 14 March 1934, gelatin silver print on traditional photographic paper, 23.5 x 19 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

George Platt Lynes (1907–1955) was an American fashion and commercial photographer known for his male nudes and fashion and homoerotic imagery. This photograph depicts three cast members of *Four Saints in Three Acts*, an opera featuring dance and ballet that was created by American composer Virgil Thomson (1896–1989) in 1927 and choreographed by Frederick Ashton (1904–1988) for its first production in 1934. The opera was considered groundbreaking for its use of an all-black cast. In this image, a young man and two adolescent youth are shown not in costume but in the nude. The hands linking the men together not only guide the viewer's gaze through the composition of fleshy limbs and bodies, but also suggest intimacy and companionship.

Camille Devaux