

Flaws Of The Flawless

Fred Astaire was always self-conscious about his hands. They were huge, and he often danced with them clasped behind his back, or in his pockets. This most graceful of men was convinced the audience would focus only on this major physical flaw he imagined in himself. Until I heard him mention this during his final TV interview, I'd never really noticed his hands. His elegant movements and Ginger-twirling were what I concentrated on. But now, having heard his comment about his hands, how uncomfortable they made him and how he never knew what to do with them, having heard that, now I can't watch his movies without zooming in on his hands. They're as big as a brick-layer's on that slender body. It makes me wonder if Michaelangelo didn't secretly think he never used green correctly when painting Florentine dignitaries, or if the Wright brothers, deep down, wondered if the simple strength of the wind that day had more to do with lifting their plane off the beach than any of their painstaking aeronautical calculations.

Peter Morris