The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0055

Van Praagh, Margaret

(1910 - 1990)

Born	19100901, Hampstead London England
Died	19900115, Camberwell Victoria Australia
Occupation	Dancer, Director, Educator, Producer, Writer

Summary

Born in London, Dame Peggy van Praagh had a long and distinguished career in ballet as a dancer, teacher, producer, advocate and director. She came to Australia in 1959 to direct the Borovansky Ballet, and was instrumental in establishing the Australian Ballet in 1962. She was artistic director of the Australian Ballet from 1962-1974 and again in 1978. Dame Peggy received much recognition for her services to ballet, including her appointment to the Order of the British Empire (OBE, 1966) and as Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE, 14 June 1970).

Details

Peggy van Praagh was educated at King Alfred School, London. She studied dance in London, and danced with Ballet Rambert and Sadler's Wells from 1933-1945 before moving into teaching at Sadler's Wells Dance Theatre, 1945-1956. She then undertook freelance teaching and producing in Germany, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and USA 1956-1960.

Van Praagh became artistic director of the Borovansky Ballet in Australia in 1960. She became a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (London), 1933, and a member of the Royal Academy of Dancing, 1969; received an Hon D Litt (University of New England), 1974; DBE 1970; OBE 1965; Queen Elizabeth Coronation Prize; Special Artist's Award, Australia Council, 1975; Britannica Australia Award for Arts 1970; and was made an honorary life member of the Australian Ballet Foundation, 1979.

Events

2012 - 2012
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Guide to the Papers of Peggy van Praagh, National Library of Australia,
http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-223908896/findingaid

Edited Book
Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

Book
Peggy van Praagh - a life of dance, Sexton, Christopher, 1985

How I became a ballet dancer, Van Praagh, Margaret, 1954

The choreographic art; an outline of its principles and craft, Van Praagh, Margaret and Brinson, Peter, 1963

The arts in Australia - ballet, Van Praagh, Margaret, 1966

Ballet in Australia, Van Praagh, Margaret, 1965

Resource Section
Van Praagh, Peggy (1910-1990), National Library of Australia, 2002,
http://www.nla.gov.au/ausdance/praaghPeg.html

Book Section
Fourth Ausdance Dame Peggy van Praagh Memorial Address, Tankard, Meryl, 1997

Journal Article
Documenting Australian Dance: The Peggy van Praagh Collection, Potter, M., 2000

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Dame Peggy van Praagh, 1912-1986 [manuscript]

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