

An Abbreviated Biographical Summary (current as of 2/15/10):

IRENE DOWD has a B.A. in philosophy from Vassar College, studied anatomy and neuroanatomy at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical School, and neurosciences at Teachers College, Columbia University. She studied with and assisted Dr. Lulu E. Sweigard at the Juilliard School from 1968 through 1974. Irene performed under the direction of Anna Sokolow and Jose Limon at the Juilliard School. She has been strongly influenced by her study of dance with a number of choreographers, especially Merce Cunningham, Lucas Hoving, Antony Tudor, and Viola Farber.

Since 1970 she has taught dance, composition, functional and kinesthetic anatomy, and neuro-muscular re-education in many institutions throughout the United States and Canada such as University of Utah, Simon Fraser University, Queens College, Brooklyn College, the American Dance Festival, the Naropa Institute, the American Center for the Alexander Technique, the Dance Notation Bureau, the Laban/Bartenieff Institute for Movement Studies. She has been a regular consultant to professional dancers in such companies as the White Oaks Project, National Ballet of Canada, and Merce Cunningham Company.

She taught in the graduate programs at Teachers College, Columbia University (MA programs in dance education from 1977 to 1995) and Wesleyan University (MALS program in movement studies from 1985 to 1993).

From 1984 to 1986, Irene was co-principle investigator in a study on "Effects of Neuromuscular Retraining on Mobility of the Elderly", with Judith A. Smith, PhD., R.N., as principle investigator, funded by the Center for Nursing Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Her words and drawings have appeared in journals including *Eddy*, *Dance Scope*, *Contact Quarterly*, *Dance Research Journal of CORD*, *Pour La Danse*, *La Danza*, *Dance Magazine*, *Choreography and Dance*, and books including *Schmerz und Sports* (Pain in Sports: Interdisciplinary Paintherapy in Sportsmedicine), the *International Dance Encyclopedia*.

She is author of *Taking Root to Fly* (1981, 1990, 1995), now in the eighth printing of the third edition. She is choreographer, director and editor of a video-film series produced by Canada's National Ballet School entitled: *Spirals*, *Volutes*, *Warming Up the Hip Joints: Turnout Dance & Orbits*, *Preparation for Jumping*, *Preparation for Performance*.

She has choreographed for solo dancers Peggy Baker and Margie Gillis.

Currently she is on the dance faculty at The Juilliard School (since 1995) and Canada's National Ballet School (since 1991). She also teaches in the MFA program in dance studies at Hollins University Graduate Center in conjunction with the American Dance Festival at Duke University (since 2006), and at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. She has maintained a private practice in neuro-muscular training and kinesthetic anatomy for over forty years.