

Peggy Hackney – in Melbourne



We were so sorry that Peggy had to leave before we were able to find the time to conduct an interview with her. We hope to rectify that lack the next time she is welcomed back to Australia.

We feel honoured to have had her with us at that special time in November 2007, both prior to and during the 'Weaving the Threads' conference. Peggy is internationally recognized for her work in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis, and was a colleague of Irmgard Bartenieff for almost 15 years. Peggy graduated from the first Effort/Shape Certificate Program in New York City. She is also a dancer and performed in NYC for 11 years before touring the country with the Bill Evans Dance Co. What a history! Her list of achievements also includes the fact that Peggy holds a B.A. in Psychology, an M.F.A. in Dance, as well as being a CMA and Certified Teacher of Labanotation, a Registered Somatic Movement Therapist (ISMETA), and a Certified Massage Therapist and she has worked with Authentic Movement for 15 years. She co-founded the Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) Certification programs in NYC, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Berlin, and Berkeley and.....as well..... is the Director of the Berkeley Laban/Bartenieff Program, co-Director of Moving on Center, and is the author of the book *Making Connections: Total Body Integration Through Bartenieff Fundamentals*. An invaluable text - now into its third printing, published by Routledge.

From the participants' evaluations of her leadership and participation before and during the conference, it

was obvious that Peggy's presence was very highly valued by our community. The feedback that followed from her two-day pre conference workshop, her Keynote address, her presence at the conference, and the wonderful Movement Choir that she conducted, was excellent. It was clear that 'Peggy' and the 'Movement choir' were highlights of the events that her skills as a teacher and presenter were greatly appreciated.

From her Keynote Speech we learnt that by a strange coincidence she is actually a 'weaver'! She has been 'weaving' for many years - and in more ways than one. These include weaving wall hangings, clothes, classes, client sessions, and rugs. In her address to the conference, she said that the client sessions, rugs, and classes are her favourites, and that this was because of the vibrant dynamic colors that are constantly interacting to change the 'weave'. She said that Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis made her "a weaver with many strands of rich color that can be available to coalesce in any moment with a client to create a different feeling-tone or texture". She also said that "Being able to consciously track these constant changes, while also staying alert to my own non-knowing of what is coming next, allows me to be truly Present with my clients and students and to follow the weave of what is rich for them". As a part of her presentation she highlighted some of the many coloured textures that weavers can 'weave' using Laban/Bartenieff work in therapeutic applications.

The Movement Choir is a dynamic tool in the Laban/Bartenieff work for helping a collective of individuals find a way to create community. This was experienced first hand as we all participated in and were a part of the "Weaving the Threads" massed movement choir. Our personal and meaningful, but simple movements were used to create the choir which began in the large and lofty space of the library and reached its culminating performance in the Rose Gardens of the Abbotsford Convent. It was a truly meaningful and powerful event – one which led us all to feel we were a part of a group with a common purpose; all moving towards the same goal.

We will look forward to the next opportunity for Peggy to be here with us Australia and to experience more of the vast fund of knowledge and skills she has to share.

Ed note: Reflections of Peggy's two 2 day workshop are on p.38. More about the Movement Choir on p. 30 and 31.