

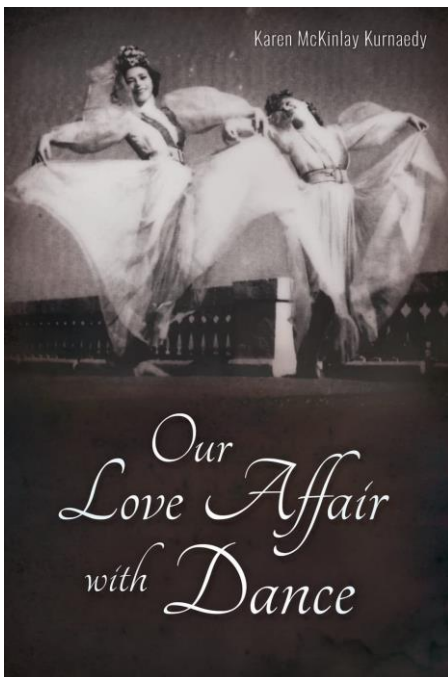
# Our Love Affair with Dance ~ Karen McKinlay Kurnaedy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Port Coquitlam, BC, May 22, 2022

## **Book release & signing for 'Our Love Affair with Dance'**

### ***A History of Early Modern Dance in Vancouver***

**'Our Love Affair with Dance' celebrates the lives of Vancouver's innovative dancers and instructors, sisters Magda & Gertrud Hahn, who opened the first modern dance school in Vancouver, The Hanova School of Modern Studies in Body Sculpture and the Classical Dance.**



BC's Karen McKinlay Kurnaedy will be launching her new book 'Our Love Affair with Dance' on **Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Michael Wright Gallery in Port Coquitlam, Tuesday August 9 at Massey Gallery in Vancouver**. All are welcome, especially those interested in dance and dance history and celebrating the lives of women as artists. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to purchase a book and have it signed by the author. Stay tuned for a Vancouver event coming soon.

**Kurnaedy's biography details the lives of dance artists Magda and Gertrud Hahn, who came to Vancouver in the late 1950s and opened the first modern dance school in the city.** Born at the turn of the 20th century, their lives had already spanned two continents in performance and mentorship. In Vancouver, the sisters started teaching their own unique style of modern dance, which was innovative and ground breaking for its time. They soon garnered a large following of students and over the next four decades in Vancouver, the Hahn sisters influenced hundreds of lives through their teaching and example.

Along with enchanting photos of dance, this book's focus centers on the power and spirituality of the dance told through the life stories of these creative and tenacious sisters. This work additionally invites the reader to celebrate the sublime and nuanced inner and outer experiences achieved through dancing. In these pages you will accompany two sisters, who faced many challenges throughout their lives, but were sustained and inspired by their love of dance. The Hanova School of Modern Studies in Body Sculpture and the Classical Dance occurred throughout the twentieth century on three continents around the world and may be largely forgotten, but a record of the Hahn sisters' lives may be seen as one of many important personal narratives to be read in order to understand the history and formation of the modern dance we enjoy today.

<http://www.karenmckinlaykurnaedy.com>

**"Kurnaedy's Extensive research into the history of two fascinating dance artists is a picture of a Vancouver that doesn't exist anymore, yet it is an influence that still permeates the life of art and of artists." ~ Jennifer Mascall Artistic Director, MascallDance**

<http://www.karenmckinlaykurnaedy.com>

## Our Love Affair with Dance ~ Karen McKinlay Kurnaedy



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Karen McKinlay Kurnaedy** is a second generation Scottish settler living on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded occupied territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation in Port Coquitlam, BC. She is a dancer, writer, and educator. She began her dance training in the 1960s at The Hanova School of Modern Studies in Body Sculpture and the Classical Dance (the first modern dance school in Vancouver) where she was forever imbued with the spirit of Duncan, Dalcroze, Laban, Wigman, and Menaka.

Karen's work as a writer includes publishing several essays, articles, and books about dance and dance education which include 'A Choreographer's Process' and 'Uncovering the Essence of What Animates Us Beneath the Dance'. Karen received her Bachelor of Education with distinction from the University of Alberta and also earned a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Simon Fraser University. Her teaching experience includes thirty years in the Coquitlam School District, being a Faculty Associate and instructing in the Graduate Diploma program at Simon Fraser University. Her interests lie in promoting and implementing new ideas for the dance arts, dance history, somatic movement practices, and dance education. When not writing, Karen is well known at local musical events, especially the rockabilly scene, where she and her husband Irwan dance together, bringing energy, grace and romance to any event they attend.

"We are fortunate to glean the lessons of Magda and Gertrud's lives through this exquisite book...Kurnaedy, who seamlessly contextualizes their work within history, dance, and pedagogy. What I am left with is that dance not only touches the soul, but originates from the soul. This book is a gift to humanity in a time where we need to remember to dance our way to peace, even in turmoil."

~ **Celeste Snowber, PhD** Performer, Poet, Professor, Simon Fraser University

Author of *Embodied Prayer* and *Embodied Inquiry: Writing, Living and Being through the Body*

"Kurnaedy tells much more than a story of a life-long passion for dance. She reveals a deep understanding of the spiritual dimension of dance, and how the magic of movement can unite people across continents, cultures and generations in a common journey towards a higher level of human existence. *Our Love Affair with Dance* is a major contribution to our understanding of dance as a transcultural phenomenon."

~ **Isabella Schwaderer, PhD** Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, Germany

'Our Love Affair with Dance' by Karen McKinlay Kurnaedy Book signing

**Thu May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022** Michael Wright Gallery 2253 Leigh Square, **Port Coquitlam**

**Tue August 9, 2022** – Massey Gallery 23 E Pender St, **Vancouver**

7pm until 9pm – refreshments served

<http://www.karenmckinlaykurnaedy.com>

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