

VIJA VETRA

DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, TEACHER, LECTURER

VIJA VETRA DANCE STUDIOS

55 Bethune Street, Westbeth Studio 718D

New York NY 10014 *

(212) 255-1736

Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Lecturer, and Native of Latvia Vija Vetra's performances worldwide in concert and on television include:

THE UNITED KINGDOM

- solo dance recitals at The Commonwealth Theater (England), and in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness (Scotland) - performed as the principal dancer in the opera "Carmen" at the Sadlers Wells Theater (London) - was the first to introduce sacred dance to the Saint Martins in the Fields Coventry Cathedral and the Southwork Cathedral (England) - performed and taught while touring Cornwall - performed for the Scottish Arts Council and the Council for Adult Education in the UK - televised appearances aired on BBC , Granada, and London Weekend stations.

AUSTRALIA

- solo dance concerts in all main cities of Australia - was the principal dancer in Kismet, in the Australian production - performed as a soloist in the Royal Command Performance for the British Queen in Australia - lead her dance group in the International Arts Festival in Adelaide - managed her own studio and dance company; created television dance program series; and performed on tour with the Arts Council and Adult Education throughout Australia - performed as a soloist in the Bodenwieser modern dance company touring throughout New Zealand.

INDIA

- performed in dance concerts in each of the main cities in India - performed dance programs which aired on television in Bombay, Madras and New Delhi - taught a course in modern dance at the

Max Mueller Bhavan in New Delhi - was awarded a grant by the government of India and studied Indian classical dance in Madras with Guru Chockalingam Pillai - bharata natyam, in New Delhi with Guru Kundan Lal - kathak, and Guru Mayadhar Raut - orissi - a film on her work was produced by the Indian Government Film Division in Bombay, and aired on television in India, and was distributed to all embassies of India - when received by Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi, Vija was called "the bridge between East and West".

NORTH AMERICA

- performed repeated dance concert tours coast to coast in the US and Canada - performed and taught on faculty as guest artist at universities and colleges, art centers and drama schools, including the Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley, the Pittsburgh Playhouse Theater School, and the Drama School at Carnegie Hall - has been interviewed and has performed for national television, on stations such as Channel 13, CBS, ABC, and WOR - after her tour, Vija studied additional modern dance with Martha Graham and Jose Limon, and performed with Jose Limon's company at the American Dance Festival at Connecticut College in New London - Vija's dance training at the Conservatory and Academy of Music and Performing Arts Dance Departments in Vienna, Austria, under Prof. Rosalia Chladek "modern, classical ballet, character, and ethnic dance" is considered the equivalent of a Master's degree from the Juilliard School. Gave Master Classes and courses at Columbia University, and Barnard College and at New York University taught courses and gave performances.

THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT

- toured Switzerland as soloist in the Ram Gopal Indian Dance Company - performed in Rome, Italy, taught at the Rome Opera Ballet School - while studying Flamenco in Spain, performed on Madrid television - taught a course in Indian Classical dance in Amsterdam, Holland - choreographed for and taught to modern dance companies in Oslo, Norway - performed in concert in Stockholm, Sweden - was invited for many years to teach international summer courses and give performances on stage and

television in art centers in Athens and the islands in Greece - performed at the national theater and on television and taught courses at the Academy for Music and Performing Arts in Riga, Latvia, dances East and West - founded a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Riga, Latvia, and acts as their Lay Minister on her annual visits. - taught as guest artist at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts Dance Department in Vienna, her Alma Mater.

Vija Vetra was the first to introduce sacred dance to church services in England, Australia, and many churches throughout the US, and Latvia. She is listed in the international biographies in Cambridge, England.

LATVIA

Vija Vetra annually visits her native Latvia for performances, teaching and lecturing. She received the 3-Star Award from the Latvian government (equal to an O.B.E. in England).

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Three documentary films have been made of Vija Vetra's work:

1. "Hearbeat" by the Indian Government Film Division in Mumbai and distributed to all Indian embassies.
2. "Vijaya" by the Latvian Flim Company 'Divini' in Riga.
3. "The World of Vija Vetra", NYC by A Kostic Films.
www.vijavetramovie.com

Vija is a resident at Westbeth and conducts yoga and dance classes (Indian classical, modern and Spanish dance) in her private dance studio.

Vija also exhibits her paintings in the Westbeth Art Gallery annual holiday show.