



Donald McKayle, not so long ago / BDC in Pulses of Raging Wings

*Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2022*

## *North Texas Giving Day*



Whatever you can give is an investment in education, community, art, yourself!

**Early giving is open now!**

Beckles Dancing Company's mission is to educate about our past while preparing for the future of the dancer through discipline, accomplishment, cooperation and sharing of art.

## *BDC McKayle Repertory Fund*

So, about my first experience with Mr. McKayle and his work. I had seen *Games* when I was in Syracuse, never dreaming that one day I would learn and perform it. When I was in Ailey II, we learned it from Sylvia Waters and Mary Barnett, who were the Artistic Director of that company and the Associate Director of the main company, respectively. They had danced with Donald. *Games* was a tale of neighborhood kids, their different personalities, their play, and how it played out. Aside from the dancers, the cast had two singers only, no other music ... but rhythm and timing! A colleague said it was the "best dancing ... a highpoint of my career"

Thank you for making a difference for the growth of Beckles Dancing Company, as we seek to bring important works that are still relevant and new work that also stimulates the dancers to higher levels.

More about Donald McKayle can be found at [donaldmckayle.com](http://donaldmckayle.com)

## *Eight others*

I did not pop out perfect (ha!) Many teachers were important in shaping and sculpting this dancer. Delores Browne was an influential ballet teacher, Penny Frank took time to carefully explain the techniques we learned in the Graham vocabulary, JoAnn Bruggeman Victor was tough on me, but allowed me to shine when it was audition time, Keith Lee is a wonderful choreographer and I share a cheeky sense of humor with him, Astor Johnson exposed me to dancing with live drums, Alonzo King is a contemporary from whom I still learn a few pointers about teaching, Richard Thomas let me dance when he realized I couldn't chat too, Anthony Salatino is a lovely teacher and choreographer who gave me great opportunities when I was fresh out of college .... The more I think, the more I remember folks who provided stepping stones along the way. No more thinking!!

## *Upcoming Events*

7 Sep - Classes begin

Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:00 pm. Live and online!

22 Sep - North Texas Giving Day is coming!

22-9-22, Thursday 6:00 am to midnight

## *YouTube channel:*

Mostly vintage, plus a few new videos. More to come!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdz5NWCjQTelcuh8jWIP5UA/videos/>

## *Sponsors*

Delores Browne .. Friends of South Dallas Cultural Center .. James and Gayle Halperin Foundation

*Thank you!*



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Beckles Dancing Company is a component of ARG A NOVA DANCE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.