



Margaret Beals, an American dancer, choreographer and theatrical performer, was self-taught during her early years. She later studied choreography with Louis Horst and Lucas Hoving; modern dance with Martha Graham, Jose Limon and Paul Sanasardo; African-Caribbean dance with Syvilla Fort; and ten years of ballet with Maggie Black. She developed an individual approach to dance through improvisation and later added the use of her speaking voice, developing a technique of performing poetry by speaking and moving simultaneously. This skill was used in her dramatic presentations of the works of Edna St. Vincent Millay, Sylvia Plath and Carl Sandburg.

In the 60's, she continued her exploration of dance improvisation, performing at cabarets and nightclubs in New York and Chicago. She worked with the jazz musicians Collin Walcott, Badal Roy, Sam Rivers and Stan Strickland, among many others. Her continued passion for improvisation led her to form her own company, **Impulses** – three musicians, singer, dancer and lighting designer. Between 1969 and 1976 the group created fully improvised evenings in the style of jazz sets.

During the 70's, Ms. Beals appeared with the modern dance companies of Jose Limon, Anna Sokolow, Jean Erdman, Lucas Hoving and Valerie Bettis. She is acclaimed for her interpretation of Ms. Bettis' classic dance solo, *The Desperate Heart* (1974).

As a solo artist, she performed her own work, **Margaret Beals in Concert**, appearing at Jacob's Pillow; the NY Dance Umbrella; the Delacorte Theatre; The Place, London; the International Festival de Danse, Paris; and the Het Theatre Festival, Holland among other national and international venues.

Her full-length works include *Stings* (1976), based on the Ariel poems of Sylvia Plath; *39 Margarets* (1980), a revue directed by Broadway's Donald Saddler; *The Teak Room, stories from a dancer's life* (1982), written and performed by the artist and directed by Tony Tanner; *Improvisations to Chopin* (1985) with pianist Thomas Hryniv. In the 90's, she created *4 Images* (1993), an evening of poetry, music and dance, with flautist, Judith Pearce, directed by Tony Tanner; and *Pathways* (1997), written and performed by Ms. Beals and directed by Obie award-winning playwright, Lee Nagrin.

Recently, Ms. Beals presented *Films and Stories*, a series of evenings in which she shared films from her extensive career interspersed with stories about the creation of the works and her collaboration with the other performing artists involved. "*The films are a remarkable record of a remarkable career.*" – Jean Tait, May 2016.