

# Stephanie Reinhart

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By [Adam Bernstein](#)

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Stephanie Ackerman Reinhart, 58, a Washington native and arts administrator who was co-artistic director for dance at the Kennedy Center and co-director of the American Dance Festival in North Carolina, died of leukemia Sept. 23 at a hospital in New York.

Mrs. Reinhart held those positions with her husband, Charles L. Reinhart. Together they traveled worldwide to find innovative and eclectic dance programs for the Kennedy Center and the American Dance Festival, a highly regarded program of classes, shows and workshops based at Duke University.

Modern dance had become a staple of the Kennedy Center shortly after its opening in 1971, but the Reinharts, who became artistic directors in 1996, used their connections to bring in more modern dance companies and cull more commissions, including a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. They also booked the traditional ballet season.

Among their efforts was a two-week, six-company tribute to the legendary choreographer George Balanchine, as well as performances by the Bolshoi Ballet and the Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor and Mark Morris troupes.

They also brought the Guandong Modern Dance Company of China; Israeli choreographer Inbal Pinto; and Dai Rakuda Kan, practitioners of the dark, almost apocalyptic Japanese dance form known as Butoh.

Mrs. Reinhart contributed to several books about dance, lectured widely and did extensive consulting work for such clients as the noted dancer and choreographer Martha Clarke. In 1993, she received a Fulbright research grant to study the history of modern dance in Argentina.

She also was an executive producer of the PBS series "Free to Dance," about the evolution of black dance in America. A program in the series won a 2002 Emmy Award for outstanding cultural and artistic programming.

Her interest in dance extended to her childhood, when she became entranced by such films as "The Red Shoes" and "An American in Paris."

"I always had this vision as a girl, crossing Connecticut Avenue," she told a reporter. "Why doesn't everybody stop and get out of their cars and just dance?"

She was a 1962 graduate of Wilson High School and a 1966 cultural history graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She later did graduate work in American literary and cultural history at George Washington

University and arts administration at Harvard University.

She went to work for the National Endowment for the Arts in 1969 as a program administrator for its dance and education programs and also did planning and development work for its artists-in-schools program.

In 1977, she joined the American Dance Festival as director of planning and development. She became co-director in 1993.

She had homes in New York and Durham, N.C.

Her marriage to Larry Singer ended in divorce.

Survivors include her second husband, whom she married in 1977; a daughter, Ariane M. Reinhart of New York; her mother, Florence Keren of Washington; three stepsons, Taylor Reinhart of Los Angeles, Adam Reinhart of Honolulu and Scott Reinhart of Geneseo, N.Y.; and three grandchildren.

 **Comments**

#### **Adam Bernstein**

Adam Bernstein has spent his career putting the "post" in The Washington Post, first as an obituary writer and then as editor. The American Society of Newspaper Editors recognized Bernstein's ability to exhume "the small details and anecdotes that get at the essence of the person." He joined The Post in 1999. [Follow](#) 

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