



Anna Halprin

Class of 1938

Anna Halprin is a pioneer in the field of postmodern dance known for her groundbreaking work in the expressive arts healing movement. Her love of dance began in her childhood in Winnetka, where she took interpretive dance lessons. After graduating from New Trier, she studied dance at the University of Wisconsin and became the mentee of the renowned dance educator Margaret H'Doubler. Halprin founded the San Francisco Dancer's Workshop in 1955 and the Tamalpa Institute in 1978 with her daughter, Daria Halprin. Her students included Meredith Monk, Trisha Brown, Yvonne Rainer, Simone Forti, Ruth Emmerson, and Sally Gross. Halprin has created 150 full-length dance theater works, including several with a focus on social issues such as world peace. She has led countless collaborative dance programs with terminally ill patients, committed to her belief in the connection between movement and the healing power of dance. Halprin has received numerous honors and awards, including recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the American Dance Guild, among others. In 1997, Halprin received the Samuel H. Scripps Award for Lifetime Achievement in Modern Dance from the American Dance Festival. The Dance Heritage Coalition named Halprin one of "America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures." At New Trier, Halprin was Head of Dancing and was very involved in the GAA (girls' athletics), playing sports including fistball, tennis, and table tennis.

