



Members of the ballet preparatory class (front row, l-r): Kamilah Owens, Brooke Higgs, Donovan Davis, Ebony Hinton; (second row) Donja Rogers, Tonisha Parrish, Niketa Green; (third row) Sandy Roberts and Nina Bullock.



Kaye Sullivan in her office.



Mrs. Sullivan with a Creative Movement class at Toddlers Academy.



Ballerinas from one of the Saturday classes: Angela Harrison, Meeka Ruffin, Crystal Coleman, Stephanie Waller, Sheree Robbins and Abosede Copeland on floor.



The Wednesday evening jazz class strikes a pose. On floor (l-r): La Tasha Alston, Lori Blake, Sherri Holmes; second row: Lillian Lockley, Kim Holmes, Marcie Clement; third row: Lisa Brewington, Sandra Trice, Penny Laney; in back: Tony McAllister.



Members of the youngest tap class include (front row): Gwendolyn Purnell, Carla Nunn and instructor Lori Hartwell; (back row) Rene Nixon, Darlene Clemons and Karen Hester.



Toe class at the barre: (l-r) Terry Rowland, Marilyn Eggleston, Gloria Saddler, Micheal Gatling.



The Studio Dance School

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Three of the male members of the Workshop class, Micheal Gatling, Nathan Garrett and Tony McAllister are pictured at work on a dance movement choreographed by Ms. Hartwell.

The Studio Dance School

The Studio Dance School had its beginning in 1968 in a downstairs studio in the Durham home of Mrs. Marcella Kaye Sullivan. Teaching only classical ballet, modern (Martha Graham technique), jazz and ethnic (Katherine Dunham technique), Mrs. Sullivan's enrollment increased yearly until the school outgrew the boundaries of her home. In September, 1980, the school relocated in the Durham College auditorium until January, 1981, when it moved to its present location at 1311 South Roxboro Street.

Some of the teachers through the years have been Phyllis Ledbetter, Dwight Leon, Cheryl Pattillo, Kristen Denard and Vickie Yokley. The present staff includes Myrna Munchus-Bullock, Lori Hartwell, and visiting instructors Phyllis Ledbetter and Dwight Leon. Also assisting in instruction are Marilyn Eggleston and Gloria Saddler, members of North Carolina Central University's Jazz Impromptu which is under the direction of Ms. Nancy Pinckney.

Over 1,000 students have come and gone from The Studio. Some have pursued dance careers and others have gone on to the North Carolina School of the Arts and other fine arts schools throughout the country.

The Studio Dance School has provided scholarships yearly to students in the surrounding community. Mrs. Edith Johnson, director of Shepard Junior High School's Dance Group, has been instrumental in selecting two to six such students each year.

The students have appeared at Bennett College in Greensboro, the High Point Department of Parks and Recreation in High Point, and at The Chapel Hill Senior High School. Locally, they have appeared on Channel 11 (Black Unlimited), and Channel 8 (Cablevision), as well as for churches and social organizations. Students offer their services also in the studio office and classroom and in the community.

The School has formed a company, "The Studio Workshop Performers," as a vehicle for promising students. That group has appeared at St. Joseph's AME Church and presented a concert at Meredith College in Raleigh in February.

With over 100 students at this time, more than dance is taught. Students learn body awareness, good health habits, diet control and good sportsmanship. Instructors also serve as counselors. Discipline is the most important feature of the classroom structure, from dance to behavior.

The class schedule now includes classical ballet, modern, jazz, ethnic, very popular tap, exercise classes for adults, and ballet preparation for the very young. Mrs. Sullivan also teaches creative movement at Toddlers' Academy nursery school.

The School will present its 13th Annual Youth Dance Revue in the Shepard Junior High School Auditorium, on May 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning June 16 and ending July 23, for the first time the school is offering a six-week summer dance class schedule.

"The pleasures enjoyed in operating the school range from meeting new faces to seeing changes in personality development as well as dance progression. Thoughts that come to mind are students who have come to me with little, if any coordination, but were motivated to stay for sometimes three or four years and eventually became graceful — if not talented, in the process," said Mrs. Sullivan.

"Most gratifying," Mrs. Sullivan comments, "are the students who are experiencing this art form for the first time. With no prior exposure to this type of discipline, these students have often worked the hardest and have kept the best attendance records."

"The exchange of talent between students, instructors, and performers is exciting and educational for all," says Mrs. Sullivan. "My plan is to expose our students to more performance experiences, with them participating in more performances and observing professional dancers and companies. The present growth of the school practically demands such activities."

About Kaye Sullivan

"Dance, for me, started many years ago. My parents exposed my sister and me while we both were young. I jitterbugged and boogie-woogied (popular dances of the forties) with my parents and also went to dance school in Detroit studying under Madame La Claire Knox, Sevara Clemmons and an impresario from Chicago named Ziggy Johnson.

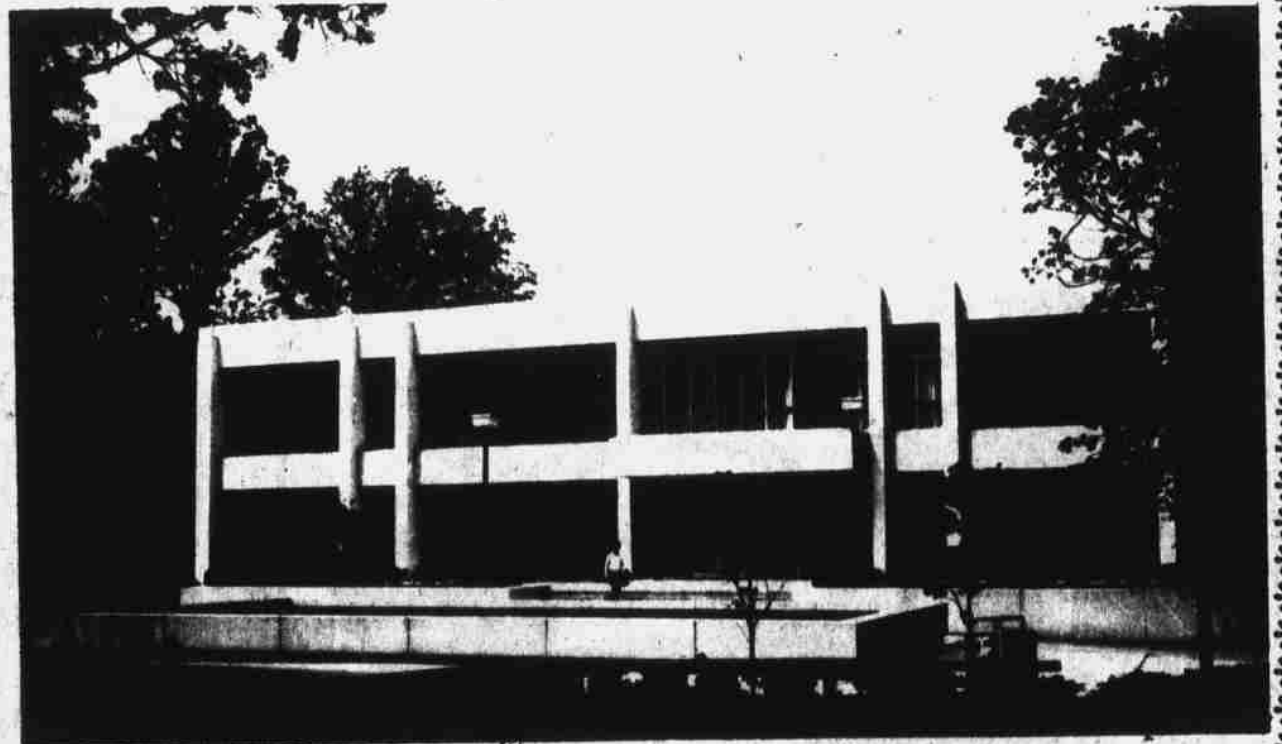
"In high school and college, I studied strictly Graham (Martha Graham) technique. While at Ziggy Johnson's School of the Theatre, I was exposed to studies with professional dancers: Katherine Dunham, Eartha Kitt, Sammy Dyer and Jose Limon. There were others but I chose to develop my technique from the aforementioned dancers.

"After a short tour of professional dancing in Detroit, Cleveland, Ohio and Montreal, Canada, I decided it wasn't for me. I used the money from that last week of pro dancing to buy myself a leather coat. I broke the engagement and went home to study and to teach.

"I still study in Master Classes but leave most of the teaching to two youthful, well-trained and exceptionally talented ladies, Myrna Munchus-Bullock and Lori Robin Hartwell. They give abundantly to the children in the Durham community. What they have accomplished in the year they've been at The Studio is only scratching the surface. They are super!" Mrs. Sullivan says.

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