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IMPRESSIONS: "Dancing Without Steps: The Art of Improvisation with Margaret Beals" - A Documentary

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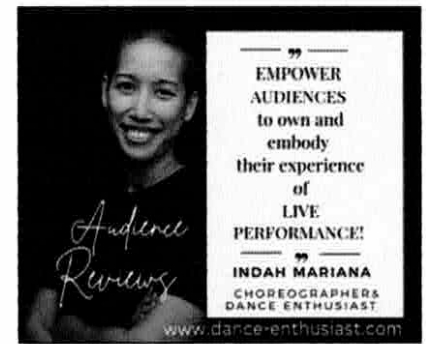
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Margaret Beals Photo: MargaretBeals.org

"Dancing Without Steps: The Art of Improvisation with Margaret Beals"
USA 26 minutes
Margaret Beals/Impulses Dance Theatre Arts, Inc., - Executive Producer
Adriana Davis/D-Squared Media NYC - Director/Production Company
Kathleen Drinane Davis - Associate Producer
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Margaret Beals is an independent spirit. The short documentary *Dancing Without Steps: The Art of Improvisation with Margaret Beals* inspires viewers to listen to their inner pulse. Artists of all genres will appreciate Beals's passion for authenticity.

The film shows excerpts of performances mostly from the 1970's and 80's, as well as some photographs. Starting to make a name for herself in the 1960's, Beals finely-tuned and sometimes joyously virtuosic dancing set her apart from the prevalent pedestrianism of the Judson Church artists of that time period.

Rather than mentioning her contemporaries in the dance world, the film focuses on Beals's training in the Martha Graham technique and her need to abandon her studies in order to find and develop her own movement. The documentary successfully draws parallels to the creative process of painter Jackson Pollock, as well as musician Keith Jarrett, whose art is fueled by improvisation.



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Introduced by [Meredith Monk](#), "Dancing Without Steps..." lets Beals define her art through her own words, and at its best the documentary provides an introduction to a fascinating individual whose presence makes the ephemeral nature of dance resonate in every moment.

The film, put together in 2022, has already received many accolades:

- Canada Shorts - Canadian and International Short Film Festival in Vancouver: Quarter Finalist, an Award of Commendation.
- Amsterdam Short Film Festival, Netherlands: Official Selection
- Vegas Shorts, Las Vegas: Official Selection
- San Diego Art Film Fest, San Diego, CA: Official Selection
- Dumbo Film Festival, New York, New York: Semi-Finalist
- Boston Independent Film Awards, Boston, MA: Official Selection
- Munich Short Film Awards, Munich, Germany: Semi-Finalist

Dancing Without Steps: The Art of Improvisation with Margaret Beals is slated to be performed again in New York City soon. Keep your eyes on The Dance Enthusiast listings to find out when.

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A Tony B Jones

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