



“Passionate About Dance”

Judy's love of fiddle music and dancing began at an early age. As an inspired young dancer, she quickly became a successful competitor, winning many different titles, including Canadian Open Step Dance Champion three times. (1979, 1982, 1983)

Success as a dancer opened many new doors, leaving Judy much in demand as a dance instructor. Enrolment in her studio grew, and for many years now, Judy has operated one of the largest and most successful dance schools in Canada. On June 6, 2019 she will be hosting her 39th Annual Recital!

Clogging was brought to Canada in the early '80's and Judy was quick to show interest in learning this new dance form. By 1985, the first ever-clogging workshop in Canada was held in Toronto. JoAnn Gibbs and Tandy Barrett were the featured instructors. Over the supper hour Tandy and JoAnn learned that Judy and her dancers in attendance were Canadian Step Dancers and asked them if they would put on a performance that evening. Well Judy and her dancers did an exhibition and the rest as they say is history! JoAnn Gibbs wanted the Canadians to be at the "famed" Fontana Clogging Workshop two weeks later and also to add the 2nd Annual National Clogging Convention being staged in Louisville, Kentucky to their schedule. From that time on Judy was a part of the clogging scene worldwide.

In 1986, Judy toured England, Scotland and Wales, performing in venues ranging from the Barbican Centre to BBC television. She also gave workshops and lectured at one of London's Universities. In 1988 Judy was one of three Canadian dancers to perform at the World's Fair in Brisbane, as well as other locations throughout Australia and New Zealand. Judy returned to Australia in 1998 as a guest speaker at "Minilab Downunder" and as an instructor at the Third Australian National Clogging Convention.

This ambitious lady has numerous television performances to her credit, including five guest appearances on "The Tommy Hunter Show". Judy was founder and director of Canadian Heritage, a unique performance group designed to preserve and promote old tyme fiddling and step dancing. Besides doing many shows throughout Ontario, Canadian Heritage's two largest endeavours include World-Fest '97 in Branson, Missouri and the Austrian Alps Performing Arts Festival in Innsbruck and Kitzbuhel Austria.

Judy's services as a choreographer have been used by the Stratford Festival Theatre, the U.S. based organization C.L.O.G., and the Calgary Fiddlers – to name a few! In 2003 Judy had the honour of teaching at the National Clogging Convention held at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. While there, Judy along with two of her instructors, performed in front of a capacity crowd in the ballroom at this elaborate hotel.

During the Christmas Holidays 2010, Judy co-ordinated a 45 minute show of step dancing, clogging and fiddling for Disney's Magic Music Days held at Downtown Disney in Orlando, Florida. She then went on to form a new performance troupe known as "Canadian Powerhouse". Comprised of 17 of the top step dancers and fiddlers in Canada today, this dynamic group was a featured guest at World-Fest 2011 held at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. From April 7 to May 8, 2011, Canadian Powerhouse did seventy-two shows to an estimated audience of more than 50,000 people.

Judy's School of Dance was invited by Joel Harrison of "Tap This" to participate in a clogging collaboration featuring dancers from all over the world. This video was released on social media on International Dance Day, April 29, 2017. What an honour to be a part of this worldwide project!

Andy Howard, director of the U.S. based group American Racket approached Judy in 2018 to see if she would partner with him to get a performance group ready for an International Folk Festival in Passo Fundo, Brazil. Judy and four of her most experienced students happily became part of the team. While there, performances were held daily in front of capacity crowds of 5,000 people. This two-week tour will remain forever in the minds of all the participants. Since returning home, this International Folk Festival has been named the top International Folk Festival in the World

It is amazing that Judy's career has with stood the test of time and been successful for more than thirty years. In the past year she has had leg surgery on both of her legs. Surgeons feel this will allow Judy to continue to dance and share her passion with others for many more years to come!

On a personal note, Judy is very happily married to Mark Waymouth and they have two sons Kurtis and Kyle. Both of their children are very actively involved in step dancing, clogging and fiddling and are a wonderful help to Judy in the studio. Kurtis and his wife Emily now have two children, Noah and Violet. Kyle is not only a talented dancer but musician as well. Besides teaching at Judy's School of Dance, Kyle is kept busy touring with many different performance groups including The Fitzgerald's and Shane Cook.