

Shirley Russon Ririe

February 20, 1929 ~ August 17, 2025

My thoughts and prayers to my dear cousins and family. Your mother was inspirational and such a beautiful person.

- Shannon Miles

Dear family of Shirley, i was honored to know Shirley and to work for her in RW for many years! I am deeply saddened by her passing. What a woman!!! She was a role model, inspiration, and bright light for me always! Ken and I send our sincere condolences. Love, Donna and Ken White

- Donna White

Shirley made all the difference. I was a freshman at BYU THR YEAR Shirley came to teach there. Her husband had been drafted and sent to Korea. I enrolled in a dance class to fill the PE requirements. Shirley was the reacher and encouraged me to try out for Orchesis. They rejected me until Shirley said I was better in class. That was the beginning of a life long career as a dance educator. Thanks Shirley. you were the best.

- Marilyn W Richardson

I extend my deepest sympathies to Shirley's family and friends for the loss of such an elegant, and dedicated artist, educator, and mother. Shirley inspired so many, including myself, to love dance, as she labored tirelessly with joy and tenacity to ensure its viability as a career. Whether visiting Capital Hill, school boards, or arts councils, Shirley rarely failed to win support and appreciation. In every residency, from the smallest hamlet to the largest city, she was met with warm hugs and bouquets of flowers. Shirley was an innovative performer and choreographer, but perhaps even more inspiring was her ability to transform a room full of rambunctious children into a symphony of laughter and grace; such was her gift and love for dance and for people young and old. Shirley also modeled beautifully how to balance her career with devotion to her family. People like Shirley are so rare, and though we mourn her loss, I hope you will find solace in the knowledge that her love of life and her artistry will carry on with all those whom she inspired and who were blessed to know her.

- Karin Fenn

Dear Ririe Family, My deepest sympathies... I Remember, I first met Shirley at the University of Utah campus at the time when I was in ballet classes. My mother and Shirley excitedly talked to each other. I said to myself, in my mind, "Oh, that's Shirley Ririe!" She's a famous modern dancer. I didn't know they knew each other. Well, they knew others at the 33rd Ward. (11th East between 4th and 5th South). When my parent, my two brothers Carter and Chuck and I moved to 4th South, We were surprised to find Shirley's parent's house was next door. It was so wonderful neighboor! Shirley was such a dear lady and nicer to me. I did send a Chistmas card to her every year since then. I didn't have time to see her funeral. But I did watch the Zoom meeting while I was at work. Thankfully, I read the closed caption. So, It's so lovely her funeral program. Much love.

- Holly Williams Sosa

To the family of Shirley Ririe. My condolences to you all upon Shirley’s passing. I am sad that both Joan and Shirley have now passed and that I will no longer be able to see them in person, should I make a trip back to Salt Lake City from New Zealand. I am so pleased that I was able to see Shirley in April 2024 at the memorial for Joan. I have always admired and appreciated Shirley as a unique person - vivacious, positive, creative and caring. Shirley was one of my teachers at the University of Utah while I was doing my MFA in Modern Dance, and later I had the fortune to become a member of the dance company that she co-directed with Joan. Learning from and dancing alongside Shirley benefited my personal and professional growth during an important stage of my life. I was given incredible opportunities and experiences that I would not have had, had I returned to New Zealand at the end of my studies. She was an inspiring dance educator and colleague, and I admired her concern and efforts to balance the dance aspects of her life with her family life. I am forever grateful for having known Shirley and I feel for your loss. She will continue to be in my thoughts and always in my memories. Suzanne Renner

- Suzanne Renner

I attended the Ririe-Woodbury Summer Workshop between undergraduate & graduate school, & still have many fond memories of the time I was there. Shirley, Joan & Ann Riordan were wonderful teachers & choreographers, & very nice people. Shirley was an inspiration to so many dancers over the years & will be very much missed. My condolences to her family.

- Jami