JAN COLLUM

1919 - 2001





Jan Collum's dedication to the young dancers of Tacoma led to the creation of the "Concert Ballet Group" in 1955, which was renamed to BALLETACOMA in 1971. Jan studied with many internationally renowned teachers, but began with Mary Ann Wells. She then continued at the Cornish School of Fine Arts with Lee Foley and Carid Leslie. Jan also studied at the San Francisco Ballet School and danced professionally with Chicago Ballet.

As Director of BALLETACOMA, Jan gained many recognitions through her dedication to the dance arts. In 1972, she received the Civic Achievement Award from the Allied Arts Association. In the spring of 1976, Tacoma Mayor, Gordon Johnston, proclaimed it "Jan Collum Day." In the fall of 1986, Jan was named one of the Northwest's Ten Outstanding Women of the Year. Jan was also a consultant to the Ford Foundation's ten-year ballet plan and served as an Adjudicator for the National Association for Regional Ballet.