

Veronica Tennant, C.C. Brief Bio

Prima Ballerina with The National Ballet of Canada for 25 years, Veronica Tennant, won hearts and accolades for her dramatic talents dancing with such luminaries as Erik Bruhn, Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Since 1989, she has garnered considerable acclaim as a gifted filmmaker, speaker, writer and producer/director, with her works winning several awards, including the prestigious International Emmy Award. Forming Veronica Tennant Productions in 1997, she has created an extensive list of highly praised programs onstage – and for television. *Vida y Danza, Cuba (2008)*, screened at the Luminato Festival, was invited to the prestigious Havana Film Festival, and telecast on Bravo! – garnering two Gemini Nominations for Tennant as Best Director, and Best Performing Arts Program. In 2008 her documentary – *Finding Body & Soul* was broadcast on CBC and won the 2009 Silver World Medal in Arts in the New York Television & Film Festival. Her documentary, *Celia Franca, Tour de Force* aired on Bravo! – and was named the ‘Best Dance Film of 2006’ by The Toronto Star.

Lauded as a “great communicator” and the subject of CBC’s *Life & Times of Veronica Tennant: Renaissance Woman*, Tennant has also built an impressive reputation as a speaker, narrator, actor, broadcaster, as well as choreographer. In 2007, Veronica Tennant was Movement Director/Choreographer for the theatrical adaptation of Margaret Atwood’s *The Penelopiad*, a collaboration between UK’s Royal Shakespeare Company and Canada’s National Arts Centre. She has written two children’s books published with McClelland and Stewart, and served as Canada’s National Ambassador for UNICEF since 1992.

Veronica Tennant’s honours include: Inductee, Canada’s Walk of Fame, Canada Council’s Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, The Governor General’s Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Brock, York, Simon Fraser, University of Toronto, and McGill. Veronica Tennant was the first dancer to be appointed to the Order of Canada as Officer in 1975. In 2004, she was elevated to the rank of Companion of the Order of Canada, the country’s highest honour.