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| Montreal Modern Dance Company (1952-1955) |
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| The Montreal Modern Dance Company (1952-1955) was an important though short-lived collaborative project between Lithuanian émigrés and dancers Yoné Kvietys (1924-2011) and Birouté Nagys (1920—). Though unacquantired prior to their arrival in Canada, they both studied movement in Lithuania with Danuté Nasvytis, a dancer who trained at the Mary Wigman school in Germany. They met while dancing in Montreal with the Wigman-influenced choreographer Ruth Sorel. The Montreal Modern Dance Company gave its first evening-length performance in early January 1954, and was well received. That same year the company performed at the sixth annual Canadian Ballet Festival, which was also well received. The company disbanded in 1955 when Kvietys moved to Toronto. Kvietys and Nagys would collaborate again several years later at the 1963 Canadian Modern Dance Festival when Kvietys invited Nagys to be a guest choreographer for her Toronto-based group, The Contemporary Dance Company. |
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| Further reading:  (Doolittle)  (Doolittle and Flynn, Dancing in a Canadian Wasteland: A Postcolonial Reading of Regionalism in the 1960s and 1970s)  (Lindgren)  (Tembeck)  (Tembeck, Birouté Nagys)  (Wyman) |