

France Moreau (by Catherine Moreau)

My mother is my role model. I was pretty young when I learned that she had abandoned her nursing course to follow her passion: teaching dance. She would have been a very good nurse, but I am convinced that her true vocation was to transmit and preserve traditions through dance. This is how she raised us, encouraging us to follow our dreams.

It's fun and enriching to grow up in a family where music and dance from around the world is part of everyday life. It was not a rare scene to see my mom and my dad, practicing a folk dance in the kitchen and ask us to take a few steps with them while we got ready for school.

I have several beautiful stories of France teaching because I got the chance to accompany her many times. It would be too long to tell all of them because in every single workshop, there was at least one magical moment, special sparks in the eyes of children, amazed parents, or inspired teachers.

One example would be the time when a little Chinese girl, quiet and withdrawn, who had just arrived in Canada, lit up when she heard a song of her country. There was an autistic boy whose teachers had lost hope that he could participate in any activity, when suddenly he got in touch with the "outside world" during a dance. There was a father tearfully singing this Christmas song with his child: "Christmas, Christmas, what have you got in your eyes? I have great happiness. What makes you so happy? What makes me happy is to be with you."

What France does is more than teaching dance and preserving heritage. She opens horizons, she brings people together and she creates beautiful moments of happiness.