

Regina Cheremeteff

Regina Cheremeteff invented herself as the Madame of Russian ballet in Calgary.

Cheremeteff had danced to support her family from the age of seven. She married a Russian aristocrat, trained as a Cossack trick rider and survived Russian troops invading her school in Berlin. She arrived in Canada in 1955 with seven dollars in her pocket. Without money to hire professionals, she remodelled her Eighth Avenue studio herself, knocking down walls, ripping up floors and screwing ballet barres into the walls. Presiding over countless bends and splits, Cheremeteff demonstrated dance for students eager to perfect their steps. She claimed they would learn in one year from her what would take three years elsewhere.

Uncompromising, every inch a survivor and inspired by a finely honed rage, she poured her heart into dance. She smoked Sweet Caps, drank, and danced to the end of her life. And although she attracted fewer students when her method went out of fashion, Cheremeteff put two generations of Calgary Ballerinas on their toes.



Regina Cheremeteff, dancer, in Berlin
Glenbow Archives NA-4894-20

300 Ballet Costumes

According to legend, Regina had nothing but seven dollars in her pocket and a wonderful talent she wished to share.

Talent, yes. Seven dollars, possibly. But was that really all she brought from Berlin? No, Cheremeteff also imported 300 ballet costumes!

Cheremeteff wore some of the costumes when she was a child, dancing with the German Opera Ballet in Berlin. Her mother had sewn many of them. Cheremeteff continued this family tradition by making costumes for her Calgary ballet school.

Born: March 25, 1912 – Died: March 5, 1992

Additional Resources

- **Alberta on Record**
<https://albertaonrecord.ca/cheremeteff-regina>

Our Collections

Glenbow Museum

<https://www.glenbow.org>

Glenbow Western Research Centre | Glenbow Library and Archives

<https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/glenbowlibraryandarchives>

Glenbow Library and Archives | Digital Collection

<https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R340826N9XM?WS=PackagePres&Flat=1>