
NEWS

Christopher Flynn

Christopher Flynn, dance teacher best known for being the person who taught Madonna how to dance, died Saturday, October 27 in Los Angeles. Death came for Flynn, 59, at the Medical Center of North Hollywood. Cause of death was not given, but Flynn had been ill for some time.

Madonna said upon hearing of Flynn's death: "Christopher Flynn was my mentor, is my higher power, and will remain my eternal inspiration."

Madonna met Flynn in 1972, when she enrolled in his Christopher Ballet in her hometown of Rochester, Michigan.

The school closed in 1976 when Flynn accepted a faculty dance position at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor. Madonna followed her teacher to Ann Arbor and was enrolled at the university for two years before striking out on her own in New York in 1978.

At that same time, Flynn had become active in the gay and lesbian rights movement, (thanks in large part to Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade), and was elected an officer in the newly-formed Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR). Flynn served as the first Records Officer (Secretary) of MOHR and was instrumental in establishing the organi-

zation's credibility and prominence in its first year of operation.

In 1986, Flynn left Ann Arbor and moved to Los Angeles. There he became a very active volunteer for AIDS Project LA, while teaching dance on a freelance basis. His work with the AIDS Project LA included serving as an administrative assistant in the food pantry, as a spokesperson for the Project and as a client advocate.

His family has requested privacy in their time of sorrow, but he also leaves many friends and co-workers in Michigan and California who will not soon forget the energy, drive and genuine human concern that were the hallmarks of his character.

Phillip O'Jibway