Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, and Doris Humphrey
Isadora Duncan 1877-1927

• Originally named Angela Duncan
• She had really no set at all when she performed, did not wear any shoes, often wore long tunics, and really expressed freedom in her movement.
• Her inspiration: Nature, Herself, and Ancient Greece
• She named her dancers the Isadorables
Ruth St. Denis – 1879-1968

- Born in Somerville, NJ.
- 1st way she began to explore her body as a dancer was through acrobats, ballroom dancing, and some ballet.
- Once she experienced all of these art forms she dove into her interpretation of modern dance, which was very heavily influenced by Egyptian Culture.
- She created her 1st big piece in 1906 – called Rhada.
Ruth and Ted- Denishawn
• She met Ted Shawn in one of her classes, he thought he was taking her class but in reality she was auditioning him.
• The two of them had a very similar energy not only in dance but in life.
• They married in August of 1914.
• They created a company and opened a school together known as Denishawn
Denishawn

• Ted Shawn was considered to be an amazing teacher - his students referred to him a Papa Shawn.
• Ted Shawn and Ruth St. Dennis had a lot of success together until their marriage ended in 1932.
• Once they ended their marriage the Denishawn era was over as well.
• The Denishawn Era came to a close by the two of them burning everything.
Ted Shawn - 1891-1972

• The year after Denishawn folded, he went on to found his own company of all male dancers.

• He is very well known for putting the image of a masculine male in the audience’s minds.
Doris Humphrey – 1895-1958

• She studied at Denishawn
• She was interested in the human condition. The idea of being an individual alone vs. and individual as a group. She worked a lot with breathing and letting affect the way you move, also a lot with weight shifting, balance vs. off balance. She felt movement with out a motivation is unthinkable.
• She wasn’t interested in her students looking like her, but in them taking their own path.
• She worked a lot with Charles Weidman, together the two of them created the Humphrey/Weidman Technique
• Most Famous piece choreographed by both of them – With my Red Fires - 1936