

Yves Moreau, an internationally-recognized and beloved ambassador of Bulgarian dance and folklore, passed away after a short illness on Friday, September 8, 2023. He had been diagnosed with a rare liver disease in June that progressed rapidly over the summer.

Yves lived in Montreal, Québec, Canada. Beginning when he was a teenager, he made countless trips to Bulgaria, collecting the music and dances from all regions as well as from ethnic minorities such as Vlach, Pomak, and Pirin Macedonian. He first taught dances to Texas folk dancers in February 1971 in Houston. Some of the dances he taught then that we still do at AIFD include Bičak, Dobrudžanska Râka, Dospatsko Horo, Gjuševska Râčenica, Kulsko Horo, and Maričensko Pravo Horo.

Over the next 50+ years, Yves presented dances at nine Texas Camps (eight in-person and one online) from 1974 to 2022, accompanied on several of those trips by his lovely wife, France Borque-Moreau, an accomplished teacher in her own right. During that time, he also presented dances at several San Antonio College Festivals and San Antonio Folk Dance Festivals. Some of the well over 100 dances learned at those events that we also enjoy doing at AIFD include An Dro Retourné, Batuta, Dimitrija, Dobra Nevesto, Dvašti Trišti, Gavotte d'Honneur, Idam ne Idam, Krivo Ihtimansko, Kulska Šira, La Bastringue, Le Laridé, La Vielle Bastringue, Osmica, Sâbrali sa se sâbrali, Sadi Moma, Sandansko Horo, Starčeska Râčenica, Vlaško Horo, and Žensko Kapansko Horo.

Yves was an extremely popular teacher throughout the world. His relaxed but clear teaching style enabled dancers to successfully learn and do many dances with a variety of regional styles and musical rhythms. Yves imparted his love of Bulgarian folklore and the joy of having fun while dancing to all whom he met.

Dena and I first met Yves in February of 1971. We were living in Denver and heard that this really good Bulgarian dance teacher would be presenting a workshop in Houston. We drove to Houston in one day (~20 hours!) to make sure we didn't miss anything. At that workshop, we began a lifelong friendship with Yves. We saw him many other times in the 50+ years that we knew him, including at dance camps and workshops, at our home in Austin, and in Québec. In 2011, we made plans to visit Yves and his lovely wife, France, in Montreal. Yves made a point of calling us and asking if we could come one day earlier so that we could attend a very special banquet and dance performance honoring Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu, Ahmet Luleci, and Yves and France. We were able to change our flight to Montreal and attend that memorable event that included incredible Romanian, Turkish, and Québécois performances. Later in the trip, Yves and France took us on a special tour of the eastern townships of Québec where English, rather than French, was the predominant language. They were the consummate hosts and made us feel like honored guests. Each time we saw them, we felt like we were reuniting with dear friends and we could pick up right where we had left off when we last saw them. Yves was an incredibly special person, both in his dance career and as a human being. We will miss him terribly but will never forget him.

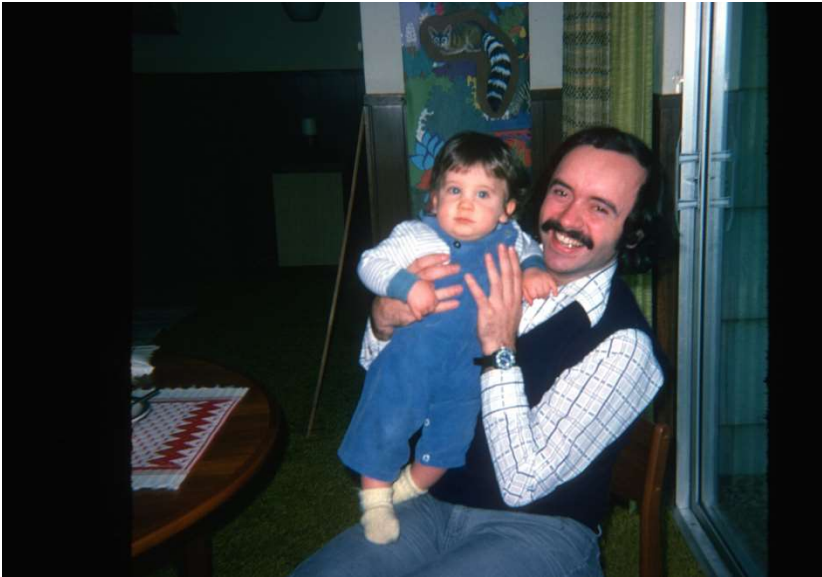


Figure 1 Adam Houston & Yves Moreau – Austin, TX 1974



Figure 2 Dena Houston, Rowena Young, Wendy Erickson, France Bourque-Moreau, Yves Moreau – Texas Camp 2008



Figure 3 France Bourque-Moreau, Yves Moreau, Franklin Houston, Dena Houston – Montreal, Québec, Canada 2011



*Figure 4 Yves Moreau, Franklin Houston, Chris Gorman, Lucy Vandevogte, Robert Sampson - Texas Camp 2022*