

Bella Richards

My mother ~~had~~ was the most important influence on me because she was family. But Aunty Edith's ^{mother, Mary,} gave me a lot. She was a very short woman. I learned a lot at 14 because you got a licking if you forgot anything. There was no such thing as child abuse back then. There was limbering up exercises when I trained. We would ~~lie~~ ^{sit} on the floor and the kumu would stand on our legs. I tell my students if ~~to~~ A could take it then, they can take it now. We also had to stand in the doorway with our hand outstretched and arm to the floor. This was all to make our bodies flexible enough to dance the way our kumu expected us to dance. Outside of my mother she is

The kumu I am most fond of. What I remember most about my teaching career is that the Hawaiians didn't write things down when I explained it to them on the board. In my time we were trained to remember everything. Today's Hawaiians carry on that tradition but without the disciplined training that we were given.

I enjoyed the male hula style of Henry Pa. My forte in ~~to rammimg was~~ ^{teaching is} auwana. To tell you the truth I wasn't a very good dancer but I did remember a lot. I see me in every one of my kids. I tell these kids to love what there doing. I tell them there is no future in keeping up with the Jones's, you have to just concentrate on yourself.

Once I read that Mi khail Baryshnikov practices 17 hours a day. When I hear that I know I'm not wrong when I push my kids.

That gives me faith.

The olapa has changed so much that I'd rather send my kids to kung fu or aikido . Ilove Aunty Edith's rendition of ? .

I feel the olapa is going down the drain. In the auwana and the olapa, the kumu don't know enough about the language.

I am a contemporary hula.