

María Tallchief

1925-2013

USA

Marie Tallchief (Osage family name: Ki He Kah Stah Tsa) was a famed American ballerina considered America's first major prima ballerina. She was the first Native American (Osage Nation) to hold the rank, and is said to have revolutionized ballet. She traveled the world, becoming the first American to perform in Moscow's Bolshoi Theater. She also made regular appearances on American TV before she retired in 1966. After retiring from dance, Tallchief was active in promoting ballet in Chicago. She served as director of ballet for the Lyric Opera of Chicago for most of the 1970s and debuted the Chicago City Ballet in 1981

