Karen was born in Hamilton, Ontario and is the oldest of four children. At the age of six, her mother enrolled her in ballet because she believed it would improve her postural alignment, poise, and discipline. Three years later she began training at the National Ballet School of Canada, which at the time was run by Betty Oliphant. At age 18, Karen became a member of the National Ballet of Canada company. In January 1971, she made her debut in the difficult role of the Swan Queen in Swan Lake, and also became a Principal Dancer with the company.

Karen is much taller than an average ballerina and is 5 foot 7 inches tall. She lives in Toronto with her husband Ross, who is a Canadian actor and theatre producer. She often danced in productions for her husband.

Karen’s performing career lasted well beyond what is normal for many ballerinas. After dancing for 28 years with the company, Karen retired as a prima ballerina with the National Ballet of Canada.

Karen is currently Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Canada. She is also very active in the community. She founded the Dancer Transition Resource Centre, which helps dancers plan for a smooth transition from stage performance to a new career.

Karen Kain is one of Canada's most famous dancers and is much loved.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT.**

1. **Who is the text about?**

2. **How old was she when she started Ballet lessons?**

3. **What does she do for a living?**

4. **Who does she live with?**

5. **What is her nationality?**

6. **What are some of her successes?**