



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 04/13/19

Former Teacher Found Guilty In Student's Death

FORMER dance teacher who taught Butoh, also known as “the dark dance,” was found guilty in a wrongful death suit of one of his students.

Katsura Kan was a teacher at Naropa University in Boulder, CO when Sharon Stern joined his class. Sharon would soon become Mr. Kan's assistant and helped him organize his classes around the globe.

In March of 2012, Mr. Kan had just abandoned her and left her in despair according to reports from Ms. Stern. A few weeks later, on April 12, 2012 she took her own life at her home in Fort Lauderdale.

Tibor Stern, father of Sharon, who filed the wrongful death suit on behalf of the Sharon Stern estate said, “Justice has been partially served.”

Mr. Stern believes his daughter was happy, healthy and mentally stable before encountering Kan. But while teaching her Butoh, Kan stripped her down, emotionally and mentally, until he had total control. Stern believes that Katsura Kan was teaching the students of M.F.A at Naropa University without proper certification. Stern believes he was teaching philosophy and psychology subjects, where he instructs to destroy one's body and mind in order to become a perfect butoh dancer. Katsura Kan exploited his female student, Sharon Stern monetarily, sexually, physically and mentally. Hours before her death Sharon emailed Katsura Kan with the question: What comes after the destruction of body and mind? Katsura Kan never replied. “She was brainwashed!” Mr. Stern cried out.

Butoh was reported by the Japan Times as the dance of death and disease. The report also noted that this form of dance was “grotesque”.

“Justice will be fully served when Naropa admits they were wrong and they change their educational principles and hiring practices”. Per complaints by former Naropa students, faculty and in publications, he believes “many students have been destroyed there”.

Tibor Stern founded Families Against Cult Teachings (F.A.C.T.), a 501-3C non-profit organization in the wake of his daughter's death. F.A.C.T.'s initiative is to intervene on behalf of cult victims, educate people about the signs of cult behaviors and help other families who've experienced the devastating effects of mind control.

Tibor Stern on behalf of Sharon Stern estate filed a lawsuit in 2013 against Katsura Kan and won, he has chosen not to take legal action against Naropa at this point.



One former student who has asked to remain anonymous said, “I was recently a student at Naropa University and withdrew after a year and a half in the Art Therapy program. I was aware of the abuse that had gone on with Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and other Gestalt-based faculty that had been inflicted on students -- professors often discussed these occurrences throughout my time there.”

To read more about the history of abuses at Naropa University and the deep connections within the Shambhala community visit:

<https://familiesagainstcultteachings.blogspot.com/.../nar...>

Janette Allen executive of EndingAbuse.org said, “I find it refreshing that the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Broward County found Kan liable. It sets a major precedent for so many others. Too many people are falling prey to these narcissistic, high demanding groups / cults and it can be devastating to so many lives. It’s very heart-breaking when it happens to someone you know. Unfortunately, most universities are a breeding ground for these cults that want to exploit young impressionable minds.

It is currently estimated that there are over 5,000 cults in the US alone.
Find out more at <http://www.FamiliesAgainstCultTeachings.org>

ENDS

For media inquiries contact:

Tibor Stern on behalf of Sharon Stern estate
President of F.A.C.T.
Families Against Cult Teachings
tibor@familiesagainstcultteachings.org

305-588-2236
877-360-FACT (3228)

PO Box 221847
1801 Polk St
Hollywood Fl, 33020

For legal inquiries about this case please contact:

Ben Murphey at Lawlor White & Murphey, LLP
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

BMurphey@lwmllegal.com



Case # 13-010284(03)
17th Judicial Circuit Court in Broward County, FL

Notes to Editors:

Ref: [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/.../butoh-dance-death.../...](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/.../butoh-dance-death.../)
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Father-wins-civil-suit...>

Families Against Cult Teachings was founded in 2013 by Tibor Stern. Since inception, F.A.C.T.(a non for profit organization), has been promoting education, awareness, prevention and saving lives of victims of undue influence brought on by cult leaders/predators who inflict sexual, mental, and physical exploitations.



Picture: Tibor Stern with his beloved daughter Sharoni Stern