

Curriculum Vitae: Stephen Comee

- 1950 Born in Massachusetts, USA
- 1972 Graduated from Bates College, Lewiston, ME, where I studied poetry under John Tagliabue, Denise Levertov, et al.
Also attended the University of Oxford (UK) on a BPhil course, during which time I studied poetry with John Wain and Elizabeth Jennings; Old Norse and skaldic poetry with Prof. Turville-Petre; Anglo-Saxon language and poetry with Prof. Christopher Tolkien and Prof. J.R.R. Tolkien; Shakespeare with Dame Helen Gardner; Rumi's poetry (in Persian) and the *Bhagavad Gita* (in Sanskrit) with Dr. Dudley Richards of Manchester College (Oxon.); etc.
- 1974 Moved to Japan to study Noh and martial arts in depth.
Began study of Goju-ryu Karate at the dojo of Grandmaster Gogen Yamaguchi.
Also began study of Aikido at the dojo of founder Morihei Ueshiba.
- 1975 Was introduced to a famous Noh teacher of the Kanze school, Makio (now Manzaburo III) Umewaka. Took part in many performances of Noh as a member of the Chorus or as a solo *shimai* dancer.
Began a lifelong study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism and language. (Much to my surprise, was made a lama by the abbot of Thyangboche Monastery in the Solu-Khumbu region of Nepal in 1976!)
- 1977 Became an official apprentice of Master Umewaka. Began study of all aspects of Noh performance, including all the instruments. Continues to perform and to give lecture-demonstrations and workshops around the world on Noh.
Also undertook an intensive study Sino-Japanese classics and classical poetry.
- 1981 Began study of Taiji (T'ai-chi) and Qigong (Ch'i-kung).
- 1986 Began in-depth study of the Chinese martial arts (Taiji, Xingyi, Bagua) taught by Grandmaster Wang Shujin and his successor, Wang Fulai, in Taiwan, as well as the old Yang-style taught by Grandmaster Yiu Kwong in Hong Kong. Now an international instructor of Qigong, Taiji, and Xingyi.
- 1999 Began formal study of ancient Egyptian language (Middle Egyptian) and hieroglyphics plus history and archaeology; slowly also added Late Egyptian and Coptic.
- 2007 Received ordination at Mount Koya in the esoteric Shingon sect of Japan; three years later, received the full Transmission of the Dharma empowerment and made an *ajari* (*acarya*), or vajra-master.
- 2012 Became certified as a Heart Intelligence life coach and facilitator.
- 2019 Performed the half-Noh of the play *Mima* on the outdoor stage of Yasukuni Shrine for the 150th anniversary of its founding.
- ~ 2021 Have published two non-fiction books and several poetry anthologies; now

preparing to publish a trilogy of novels, a travelogue of my life's journeys, and a translation of an ancient Tibetan text, among other projects.

I am also active as a spiritual healer (often called a shaman by others) who uses prayers/mantras, energy (Reiki, etc.), and sound vibrations (Tibetan bowls, Native American flutes, etc.) to help people find the resources to heal themselves.