

# anne garrels

NPR'S SENIOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT RISKS HER LIFE TO BRING LISTENERS THE TRUTH FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Once a loner in boarding school, Garrels now connects with the world.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NPR

**A**NNE GARRELS NEVER INTENDED TO BECOME a foreign correspondent after studying journalism in college. It was her ability to speak Russian that put her on the path to becoming one of the most respected reporters in the world. Garrels' stories from Tiananmen Square to the battlegrounds of Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq, broadcast regularly into the

lives of millions of viewers and listeners. Her reports can still be heard on NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition* and *Weekend Edition Saturday*.

Garrels authored *Naked in Baghdad* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux) in 2003, to serve as both a "catharsis" for her and to provide a rare account of the war from inside the **>>**



Garrels' work in Iraq also garnered the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation.

**AW: HOW DID YOU JUMPSTART YOUR REPORTING CAREER?**

**AG:** Because I was passionate about the events going on in the Soviet Union, this was the guiding force that made all the difference. When I moved back to the U.S., I worked as a researcher at ABC, doing a variety of jobs. Since I spoke Russian, it set me aside from other people. One day, they said, "Why don't we send you to Moscow?" Although I knew how to define a story, I was not skilled as a writer or broadcaster. Back then, you had to be producer, cameraman and reporter.

The first night I arrived, suddenly, I realized what a huge job was ahead of me, and stood in my apartment, sobbing. It was a very difficult assignment, because it was the KGB's job to make sure I didn't learn anything and my job to find out all I could.

**AW: YOU EVENTUALLY SERVED AS THE NETWORK'S MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF THROUGH 1982. WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE?**

**AG:** Raising a camera in the Soviet Union then was like raising a gun – everyone scattered! The KGB would take your film. Those were the days of the human rights movement and Andrei Sakharov. It all started with him, because he taught me so much and was inspiring. In many ways, if there was a mentor in my life, he was it.

**AW: AT NPR, YOU'VE REPORTED FROM AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, THE MIDDLE EAST AND, IN 2003, EARNED INTERNATIONAL FAME BY BEING ONE OF 16 JOURNALISTS TO STAY IN BAGHDAD. WHAT IS IT LIKE, SURROUNDED BY SUCH TURMOIL?**

**AG:** When you are in the middle of nowhere and don't speak the language, your instincts must lead you. Every foreign correspondent must find the "fixers" – individuals you can trust and, literally, help fix things.

pummeled city. She has earned an Alfred I. Dupont Award for her "coverage of diverse topics ranging from social and economic challenges to military and cultural developments." Her work in Iraq also garnered the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation. Garrels came to Austin on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> to serve as keynote speaker for KUT's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Four days before her trip to Austin, from the quiet of her rural Connecticut home, Garrels shared her experiences during a phone interview.

**AUSTINWOMAN: TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD.**

**ANNE GARRELS:** I was born in New England, but at eight, we moved to England. I was much younger than my two siblings and the child of older parents, so, I was driven, independent and precocious. I was probably awful to be around.

**AW: DID YOU HAVE ANY MENTORS IN JOURNALISM GROWING UP?**

**AG:** None. There were no women reporters to model after when I went to college in 1968. The assumption was we would graduate and become teachers or stay-at-home moms. I was on the cusp of change when I entered Harvard, and when I graduated four years later, we were determined to do something, make changes, but the world was not ready for that.

“When you are in the middle of nowhere and don't speak the language, your instincts must lead you. Every foreign correspondent must find the “fixers” – individuals you can trust and, literally, help fix things.”

## Come Experience Pilates at JoyMoves!

trying to find food and a place to live, you are also trying to report and survive. I felt responsible for the Iraqis I hired ... watched as my staff had to move houses, because of security.

Our house manager in Bagdad, a dignified man in his 50s, was kidnapped one day. Before being freed, he was raped, beaten and suffered a heart attack. We all wondered, "Was it someone in our office who fingered him?" We were able to get him out of the country.

When covering a war, it's very hard to establish what the facts are and get to the people you need. It has become a far more brutal and dangerous world then when I first got into it.

### AW: AFTER SUCH STRESSFUL EXPERIENCES, HOW DO YOU COME DOWN?

**AG:** My husband is very supportive, so after I go off for months, I always return to a wonderful home. I did a deal with NPR about 10 years ago, to go wherever they wanted me to, six months out of the year; then, I get to come back to decompress. It's a wonderful antidote to live way in the country, with a garden. I frantically work in it when there's not a foot of snow.

### AW: WHAT IS YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT?

**AG:** Not exactly sure what I am going to be doing next. I will go back to Baghdad eventually, but not on a regular basis. I have pushed the envelope and stayed alive. I feel it's very important, though, to challenge the information you get on blogs, etc. There's the government's version of events and then there was reality. The two are not the same. You have to be there. You can't do it from afar. ★



JoyMoves is an upscale movement studio nestled amongst the gorgeous live oaks of Austin in the Westlake Hills area. We focus on Pilates and our offerings include:

- NEW in March!  
Pilates Mat/Tower Classes
- Pilates MVe™ Chair Classes
- Group Reformer Classes
- Private and Duet Pilates Training Sessions

See website for complete class schedule, purchases and to reserve your space in a class today!



Best of Citysearch

WINNER: PILATES

### SPECIAL OFFER:

Try our NEW Mat/Tower Class at JoyMoves, purchase a 4-Class Pass the same day for 25% off.

That's Four Classes for only **\$54!**

(reg. price \$72)

Call for info about trying a free class! (Austin area residents only.) Discount good for new students, first purchase only. Pass expires 30 days after purchase. Offer may only be used once. Not valid with other offers. No cash value. Offer expires July 31, 2009.

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO  
[www.JoyMoves.com](http://www.JoyMoves.com)



2499 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Ste A202, Austin, TX 78746 • 328-4440