

STREAM CHOREOGRAPHERS Shaun Amyot and Michael Schumacher

SHAUN AMYOT



The 2012-13 school year is Shaun Amyot's seventh at NBS, where he teaches Contemporary Repertoire and Improvisation Technique.

A native of Ottawa, Ontario, Amyot completed his early training at The School of Dance before entering the Post-Secondary Program at Canada's National Ballet School. In his final year, he was awarded a Canada Council Grant to travel in Europe. This led to an exciting dance career with the Nederlands Dans Theater under the direction of Jiri Kylian and Ballett Frankfurt with William Forsythe. During this time he was a part of countless world premieres originating roles in ballets by not only Kylian and Forsythe but also Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Hans Van Manen, Amanda Miller, Ed Wubbe and many others.

Amyot then switched gears to Musical Theatre where he was a member of three original Broadway casts, *Ragtime*, *Annie Get Your Gun* (1999 revival with Bernadette Peters) and *Seussical, the Musical*. Favourite musical theatre roles include Amos in *Chicago* on Broadway, Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* for Canstage, and Hans/Rudy/Two Ladies guy in the celebrated Rob Marshall/Sam Mendes version of *Cabaret*. He can also be seen in the Oscar winning movie musical *Chicago!*

During his time at NBS, Amyot has staged works by master choreographers Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, John Neumeier and William Forsythe and assisted Azure Barton and Matjash Mrozewski on their successful new creations for the School.

The success of his work *Improvisation A109* for the NBS Assemblée Internationale in 2009, led to his first commission: a new piece for the San Francisco Ballet School's annual Student Showcase which premiered in May of 2010 entitled *5.26.10*. His work mixed choreography with improvisation challenging the dancers to find their own voices.

Amyot will once again be creating a new work titled *Stream* for the AI13, in collaboration with Amsterdam-based choreographer, Michael Schumacher. Performed by a blended cast of AI13 students present in Toronto and joined virtually through live streaming by dancers from the Dutch National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam, Amyot's work will explore the use of new technologies in dance.

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER



Michael Schumacher is a performing artist with roots in classical and modern dance and an abiding interest in the discipline of improvisation. He has been a member of several groundbreaking companies, including Ballet Frankfurt, Twyla Tharp Dance, Feld Ballet, Pretty Ugly Dance Company, and Magpie Music Dance Company. A collaborative figure in several productions of Peter Sellars, Schumacher has appeared in *Bible Pieces*, *Peony Pavilion*, *El Niño*, *Bach Cantatas*, *La Passion de Simone*, and *The Vimalakirti Sutra*. This spring he appears in Sellars' staging of John Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*.

As a choreographer, Schumacher has created original works with the dancers of Ballet Frankfurt, Netherlands Dance Theater III, The Dutch National Ballet, and Dansgroep Amsterdam. In recent years, Schumacher's work has come to the forefront in several productions of the Holland Dance Festival. With Jiří Kylián, he created the highly acclaimed *Last Touch First*, which has been performed throughout Europe and the U.S. Most recently he created *Queen Lear*, in which he and Sabine Kupferberg render Shakespeare's epic narrative as a dramatic duet.

In 2008, Schumacher was awarded both the Gouden Zwaan and the Jiří Kylián Ring, the first dancer/choreographer ever to receive the two awards at the same time.

Michael Schumacher began dancing in musical theatre productions in his hometown of Lewiston, Idaho. After moving to New York, he received a B.F.A. in Dance from the Juilliard School. He currently resides in Amsterdam and conducts workshops in movement analysis and improvisation worldwide.