



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

National Ballet Academy

Amsterdam

The National Ballet Academy (NBA) produces classically-trained dancers whose technique, schooling and artistry equip them to perform independently at the larger ballet companies. The NBA provides instruction in the Vaganova Method. After completing the preliminary training, students enter a phase of higher professional training lasting two to three years.

The higher vocational education program contains the following elements: in addition to a daily classical lesson, students receive lessons in character, variations, point technique, pas de deux, virtuosity, repertoire, modern dance, strength training, music theory, dance history, prevention of injuries, and practical training with one of the major companies.

Students are required to complete a work placement apprenticeship at Het Nationale Ballet, Intro Dans, Scapino Rotterdam or a similar group. Stage experience is extremely important and therefore the NBA organizes a large number of performances. The training programme has direct links to the dance world, as its teachers are currently or formerly employed as dancers or teachers in the large companies. Close ties are maintained with Het Nationale Ballet, the Academia Vaganova of St Petersburg and Canada's National Ballet School.

When all requirements have been satisfactory fulfilled, the student receives a diploma Bachelor of Dance (Bda).

www.english.theaterschool.nl/en/dance-programmes/national-ballet-academy/

Amanda Beck

Interim Artistic Director, National Ballet Academy (Amsterdam)

Amanda was born in Aldershot, England. She attended the Weguelin School of Russian Ballet and thereafter enrolled in the Royal Ballet School in London. She entered The Royal Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet and after four years she joined The Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam, where she became a Second Soloist. After finishing her performance career she started teaching and has been affiliated with the National Ballet Academy of Amsterdam for ten years. At present, she is Interim Artistic Director together with Joanne Zimmerman.

Joanne Zimmerman

Interim Artistic Director, National Ballet Academy (Amsterdam)

Joanne Zimmerman was born in Buffalo, New York, where she received her dance education. Her dance career began with the Ballet van Vlaanderen in Belgium. After one season, she joined The Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam. She rose through the ranks to become a Principal Dancer. While still dancing, she began her career as a teacher at the National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam. At present, she is Interim Artistic Director together with Amanda Beck.