



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

John Cranko School

History

When John Cranko came to Stuttgart in 1961, he brought the Ballet Company of the Wuerttemberg State Theater, today's Stuttgart Ballet, to world fame within a short period of time. Cranko's idea to establish a ballet school in Stuttgart where talented young dancers would be trained in close contact with the Ballet Company became reality ten years after the founding of the Stuttgart Ballet. The John Cranko School, named after its founder in 1974, was officially opened on the 1st of December 1971. For the first time in West Germany a comprehensive education in classical dance from basic training to a professional degree was possible. In 1973, the two last years of study, the so-called Theater Classes, were given the status of a State Ballet Academy / Vocational School. Thus, the John Cranko School was the only school in West Germany which offered a complete ballet education in classical dance recognized with a state diploma. Under the direction of Anne Woolliams the school advanced to one of the most internationally recognized addresses for talented young dancers. Since 1999 the John Cranko School, affiliated with the Stuttgart Ballet, has been under the direction of Tadeusz Matacz and is one of the most renowned ballet schools in the world more than 35 years after its founding.

General Information

The John Cranko School consists of the Ballet School of the Wuerttemberg State Theater and the State Ballet Academy – a Vocational School. The school is financed by the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the City of Stuttgart. The school year is the same as that of public schools. An admission is possible at any stage of the training. Condition for admission is a passed entrance examination which takes place every spring for the following school year in the form of a class suitable to the age of the applicant. An examination by the school physician is also required for admission.

Residence Hall – Day Care – Lunch

Connected to the Ballet School is a Residence Hall with 32 places (mostly twin rooms) into which non-local students of classes 1 to 6 (ages 10 to 16) can be admitted. The Residence Hall is professionally staffed and meals are provided by the cafeteria. The students attend nearby public schools. During the holidays the Residence Hall is closed. Day students can have lunch in the school as well; students ages 8 to 14 may also attend the Day Care which offers supervision for homework and leisure time.

State Ballet Academy – Vocational School

The State Ballet Academy / Vocational School is a two-year program. Students up to the age of 18 are admitted. Conditions for admission to the Academy are a high standard of technical proficiency in classical dance and a completed academic school education. The program is full-

time and includes the following subjects: classical technique, variations, repertoire, Pas de deux, character dance/Spanish dance, contemporary dance, improvisation, pointe work, German, English, sociology, dance history, music history and theory, anatomy/dance theory and make-up. At the end of the first year there is a theoretical examination, at the end of the second year there is a practical final examination. After passing the final examination the students leave the Ballet Academy as state-certified classical dancers. The education at the Academy is free of charge. However, the students need to pay for their board and lodging. Private rooms or nearby dormitories may be considered for accommodation. Foreign students should have a basic knowledge of the German language.

Performances – Competitions – Tours

By participating in a large number of performances of the Stuttgart Ballet and the Opera of the Wuerttemberg State Theater, the students acquire a feeling for the stage and work in a theater. In addition, several school performances take place each year. Numerous guest performances have brought the John Cranko School to various German cities as well as many different countries. Students of the John Cranko School have repeatedly been awarded with prizes at the most renowned ballet competitions.

www.stuttgart-ballet.de/deutsch/d_crankoschule/d_einstieg_schule.html

Tadeusz Matacz

Director, John Cranko School



Tadeusz Matacz, born in Warsaw, Poland, received his ballet education at the State Ballet Academy in Warsaw where he also completed his pedagogical training with Leonid Zhdanov.

In 1977 he had his first engagement as a dancer at the Big Theater Warsaw and at the same time worked as a ballet teacher at the ballet school in Warsaw. From 1979 to 1984 Tadeusz Matacz was a Principal Dancer at the Big Theater Warsaw. From 1984 to 1992 he was a Soloist at the Badische State Theater in Karlsruhe where he also took on pedagogical commitments as of 1988. From 1992 to 1998 Tadeusz Matacz was ballet master and choreographer at the Badische State Theater in Karlsruhe. From 1990 to 1998 he also worked as a guest teacher with Ballet Frankfurt, Toulouse Ballet, the Big Theater Warsaw and

from 1997 to 1998 also with the Stuttgart Ballet.

Since 1st January 1999 Tadeusz Matacz has been the Director of The John Cranko School in Stuttgart. He is regularly invited as a juror at renowned international ballet competitions.

Alessandra Spada

Student Choreographer, John Cranko School

Alessandra Spada was born in Florence, Italy. She studied ballet at the Demidoff Ballet School beginning in 1997, and in 2006 was accepted into the John Cranko Ballet School in Stuttgart, Germany.

As a student with the Cranko School, she has performed in *Etuden*, choreographed by teachers of her ballet school; *Mazur*, choreographed by Tadeusz Matacz; *L'Estro Armonico*, by John Cranko; and others. With her school in Italy she danced roles in *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Paquita*.

Alessandra has placed at numerous competitions, including the first prize in the 2005 Florence in Dance classical dance section. The work she has created for the Assemblée Internationale is titled *Hidden Fears*.