



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

The School of The Hamburg Ballet



The School of the Hamburg Ballet, established by John Neumeier in 1978, prepares young people between the ages of 10 and 18 from all over the world for a professional dance career. The syllabus gives priority to classical-academic dance, but teaches as well the techniques of modern dance, character, classical variations and dance composition.

The “Balletzentrum Hamburg”, the last buildings designed by the famous Hamburg architect Fritz Schumacher, provides a roof for the unique combination of school and company, offering a dance education surrounded by the constant presence, example and inspiration of a successfully functioning professional ensemble. This symbiosis, preserving tradition while encouraging creation, encompassing “stars” and beginners, demonstrates that ballet is an immanently human art – constantly developing and a very living language.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL by John Neumeier

First and foremost, I am a choreographer. Choreographic visions demand dancers – a group, a company to realize and develop ballets. To supply this group with technically well trained artist who understand and "speak" with their bodies my dance language, a school - closely connected to the company - was needed. It is the source and guarantee of continual renewal.

From the beginning, I envisaged a company with an unmistakable artistic identity. The extension of that vision is a school which combines the teaching of classical ballet and other dance forms with the practical experience of learning and working with a choreographer. A school with and without "style" – with "style" because it is attached to a specific company and to a particular choreographer – without "style" because the classical training is strong and the curriculum includes a universal dance education preparing the student for the contemporary dance world.

www.hamburgballett.de/e/schule.htm

John Neumeier

Director & Chief Choreographer, The Hamburg Ballet, Hamburg Ballet School



Since 1973 John Neumeier has been Director and Chief Choreographer of The Hamburg Ballet, since 1996 he has been "Ballettintendant". He received his first dance training in his home town Milwaukee/Wisconsin, where he also created his first choreographic works, and went on to study ballet both in Copenhagen and at the Royal Ballet School in London. In 1963 he joined the Stuttgart Ballet, where he progressed to solo dancer. Before being appointed Director in Hamburg, he had been Director of Ballet in Frankfurt since 1969. Under Neumeier's direction The Hamburg Ballet became one of the leading ballet companies of the German dance scene and soon received international recognition. As a choreographer, Neumeier has continually focused on the preservation of ballet

tradition, while giving his works a modern dramatic framework. He has worked as a guest choreographer with many companies, including The Royal Ballet in London, the State Operas of Vienna, Munich and Dresden as well as The Ballet of the Paris Opera and The Tokyo Ballet. He received various awards, most recently the "Herbert von Karajan Musikpreis" in 2007 and the "Deutscher Jubiläums Tanzpreis" in 2008. He was made an honorary citizen of the city of Hamburg in 2007.

Marianne Kruise

Pedagogical Principal & Deputy Director, Hamburg Ballet School



Marianne Kruise was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and received her training in Copenhagen and Paris. During her long performance career, she danced with the Scandinavian Ballet (1959 – 1961), Théâtre d'Art du Ballet (1961 – 1962), Mulhouse Ballet (1962 – 1963) and Stuttgart Ballet (1965 – 1970). She was a principal dancer with the Frankfurt Ballet from 1970 to 1973 and with The Hamburg Ballet from 1973 to 1985. Since 1985, Marianne Kruise has been engaged with The School of the Hamburg Ballet, as a teacher and, since 1993, as Pedagogical Principal and Deputy Director.

Kevin Haigen

Teacher, Hamburg Ballet School

Kevin Haigen trained at the School of American Ballet and the American Ballet Theater School. He danced with the American Ballet Theatre, before joining the Hamburg Ballet in 1976, being promoted to Principal dancer in 1977. He also worked with Nederlands Dans Theater, les Ballets de Monte-Carlo (as dancer, Ballet Master and Choreographer), English National Ballet, and finally Béjart Ballet Lausanne (1988-1991). Kevin Haigen returned to the Hamburg Ballet in 1991 as Ballet Master for the company and teacher for the Ballet School. In 2006 he was promoted to Principal Ballet Master. Kevin Haigen is frequently invited as guest teacher. Donya Feuer made a documentary about him: *The Work of Utopia*.

Beatrice Schickendantz

Teacher, Hamburg Ballet School

Beatrice Schickendantz was born in Basel, Switzerland. She worked as a professional dancer in her native town and in Cologne. After her education as a dance teacher, she was a ballet mistress and head of training at the Theatre of Basel under the direction of Heinz Spoerli. In September 1978 John Neumeier engaged her to become a teacher in his newly founded Hamburg Ballet School. Besides ballet and modern dance (based on Martha Graham Technique) she also teaches dance composition.

Sasha Riva

Student Choreographer, Hamburg Ballet School

Sasha Riva was born in the United States to Italian parents, and grew up in Milan. He began his dance career studying Hip Hop at a school in Milan, and at the age of 15 began to study both contemporary dance and ballet. In 2008, he was accepted into the Hamburg Ballet School, where he enjoys both dancing and choreographing.

The work Sasha has created for the *Assemblée Internationale* is entitled *Words Unsaid*.