

TANYA PEARSON

CLASSICAL COACHING ACADEMY

SELECTIVE SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED & DEDICATED

Biography - Wim Broeckx



Photo by Alex Hunt

Wim Broeckx was born in Antwerp in 1961 and began his ballet studies in his native town, Antwerp, Belgium, at the age of 10. After successfully completing his education at the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp, Belgium, Wim Broeckx he was contracted with the Royal Ballet of Flanders.

After having spent one season at the Royal Ballet of Flanders, he joined England's prestigious London Festival Ballet. In 1982 he changed locations to Amsterdam, Netherlands where after having danced as a guest artist with Scapino Ballet, he joined the Dutch National Ballet as a coryphée. He was promoted to principal dancer in 1986. During his extensive career, he performed the major leading roles of the classical repertoire such as; Giselle, the Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Cinderella and could be seen in many contemporary repertoire works by

renowned choreographers like George Balanchine, Hans van Manen, Rudi van Dantzig, Roland Petit, Twyla Tharp, Ashley Page, Sir Frederic Ashton, William Forsythe, Leonid Massine, Kurt Jooss and many others.

Mr Broeckx appeared as guest artist with the Scottish Ballet as partner of Leslie Collier in Galina Samsova's production of the "Sleeping Beauty", with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in their production of "Romeo and Juliet" and with the Essen Ballet in "Vier letzte Lieder" from Rudi van Dantzig. He appeared regularly on many international gala's such as the "Gala des Etoiles" in Montreal, The "Nijinski Gala" in Hamburg, AIDS benefit gala in London in the presence of Princess Diana of Wales. On many of these occasions he performed Roland Petit's "Les Intermittences du Coeur" with his identical twin brother, Jan.

Besides being very busily occupied as a dancer, Mr Broeckx also found the time to choreograph several ballets for the Dutch National Ballet annual workshops, during which he also on many an occasion took it upon him to organise these events. After several successful works, he was asked to choreograph a ballet for the Dutch National Ballet's regular repertoire.

In 2000, on request of the board of directors, he took up the position of Assistant Artistic Director of the Dutch National Ballet. Having been approached for this function, he decided that in order to accept this position and therefore being involved in the management it would be suitable to end his dance career.

In 2002, he accepted the opportunity to become Director of the Dance Department of the Royal Conservatoire, The Hague, since he always had been interested in the guidance and development of youngsters. While director of the school, Mr Broeckx taught on several occasions and staged classical ballet repertoire like, Paquita, Les Sylphides, Ramonda pas de dix, Brahms-Schönberg (Balanchine) and assisted with the maintenance of ballet's by NDT choreographers, Jiri Kylian, Jorma Elo, Hans van Manen, Paul Lightfoot & Sol León.

Mr Broeckx has been invited to teach at the Conservatoire Supérieur de la Dance in Lyon, The Institut del Teatro in Barcelona, The Royal Ballet School of Antwerp and The Victorian College of the Arts, during which he taught classical ballet, pas de deux and repertoire classes. In July 2006 and 2007, while adjudicating for the McDonald's Challenge of the Arts, he was invited to teach ballet workshops.

Mr Broeckx has been invited to participate as a member of the international jury for the prestigious 2003, 2005 and 2007 Prix de Lausanne competition and has taken part in the Adjudication panel for the 2006 and 2007 McDonald's Challenge of the Arts in the category Classical Ballet.

During his dance career, Mr Broeckx was awarded the prize of the Friends of the Dutch National Ballet for "new upcoming talent", the Duval-Leroy prize for outstanding achievements and the prize from the "Dancersfund '79" for his whole dance career achievement.

Wim Broeckx has a long history with the Prix de Lausanne. He was a finalist at the competition in 1980 and returned to take part in the entr'acte during the Gala Performance celebrating the 20th anniversary in 1993. He has, in recent years, served on three occasions as a member of the competition's jury. He enjoyed a long and successful performing career with four international ballet companies, most notably Dutch National Ballet, where he rose to become Principal Dancer and, eventually, Assistant Artistic Director. In 2002, he was appointed Director of the Dance Department of the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. He is known and respected throughout the dance community for his commitment to the healthy and responsible training of young dancers, and his determination to promote ballet and ensure its recognition as a profession.