



Jean Paul Comelin

Biography

Hamburg 2013

French-born, choreographer, and director Jean-Paul Comelin has long been associated with the world's most prominent ballet companies, and some of the greatest names in the dance world of the twentieth century.

Born in Brittany (his mother was a local actress) and educated in Paris, he began his professional training as a dancer at the Paris National Conservatory of Music, and joined the Paris Opera Ballet, then directed by Harald Lander and George Skibine. Russian choreographer, Vladimir Bourmeister invited him, to dance the lead role in his ballet, Snow

Maiden, and joined London festival Ballet (now known as English National Ballet).

While dancing with London Festival Ballet Mr. Comelin became Principal dancer performing an array of roles from the classical repertoire and others especially created for him. He worked with such dance luminaries as Anton Dolin, Frederick Ashton, David Lichine and Leon Woiczikovski.

Mr Comelin choreograph his first Ballet Autumn Songs for the National ballet of Canada for Ballerinas Veronica Tennant and Karen Kain.

A second work Idylle A silver medal winner will also be added to the repertoire, a year later. He then proceeded to create over seventy works for companies on five continents for over 40 years.

In the United States, as a Choreographer and Master Teacher, Mr.Comelin built choreographic groups and schools in San Diego, and Washington Dc. A professional company in Sacramento and Milwaukee where he was Artistic Director created the Milwaukee Ballet school .

He worked with such notable dancers as Rudolf Noureev, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Natalia Makarova, Lawrence Rhodes, Carla Fracci, Marcia Haydee, Richard Cragun, Vladimir Vassiliev, and Ekaterina Maximova.

Returning to Europe Mr. Comelin was invited by Artistic Director Marcia Haydee to be Ballet master of the prestigious Stuttgart Ballet. He created two New works for the company, and was in charge of Jiri Kilian, John Neumeier, Maurice Bejart and John Cranko repertoire.

As Artistic Director of Ballet du Nord in France, he created several works each year. An original work on Christopher Columbus, a new version of the Nutcracker, a new version of the Firebird, a collaboration with painter Majhoub Ben Bella, and the Mozart Requiem, (Lux Aeterna) were the most successful of his works, at home and on tour.

Since 2008 Mr Comelin was a visiting lecturer and choreographer at the University of Richmond Virginia, and since 2010 to the present, he is artist residence at southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas.

Today Mr Comelin continues choreographing, teaching, lecturing around the world, and working closely with the dancers, designers and technicians of the companies he goes to.