

Resume Wim Vanlessen

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Artistic director, movement director, keynote and motivational speaker, teacher, coach, dancer.

Summary of qualifications

Multi-Award winning Principal dancer (Opera Ballet Flanders).

Founder and Artistic Director of Time To Dance, International Ballet Gala for the benefit of Danserfonds. www.time-to-dance.be

Author: "Dancer" (Autobiography) and Children's book, "Een Heel Bijzondere Jongen".

Teacher, Coach, and Judge: Masterclasses, Guest Teacher.

Movement Director and Choreographer

Well respected Public Figure and Ambassador representing the world of dance.

Professional experience

Artistic Director:

- October 2022-Current, Time To Dance International Ballet Gala

Movement direction:

- Dries Van Noten Fashion Show Dance Film AW 2020-2021
- Carolina Herrera Perfume Ad 212 Campaign.
- Choreography Academy Museum Gala
- Delveaux Luxury Brand Campaign
- Bare Jewelry Campaign
- Music Clip "The Subs"

Magazine Photoshoots:

- L'Officiel Italia
- L'Officiel USA
- L'Officiel Belgium
- Vogue Arabia

- Vogue Ukraine
- Numero Russia

Keynote/Motivational speaker:

Numerous live and in depth talks inside companies, organizations, and schools about the experience and life of a Principal Dancer. "Life of a dancer" addresses what it takes to prepare and achieve success in the complex and competitive ballet world. And, how these experiences can be used in corporate life to gain success. Speaking engagements have included the following:

Private Banking

Management Corporations

Ballet Schools and Secondary Education

Art Schools (Artists and Creatives)

Community organizations (Lions, Rotary, NGOs-Philanthropic and Charitable)

Royal Ballet of Flanders 1994 – 2019

Promoted to Principal Dancer in 2004

Collaboration with the following renowned choreographers: Hans van Manen, Jiri Kylian, Christopher Wheeldon, Sidi Larbi Charkaoui, Joeri Grigorovich, William Forsythe, Marcia Haydée, Christian Spuck, David Dawson, Akram Khan, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Jorma Elo.

Leading Roles:

- Bolero, Sonate (Béjart)
- Zwanenmeer, Sleeping Beauty (Marcia Haydée)
- The Nutcracker (Demis Volpi)
- Gisèle (Akram Khan)
- Romeo & Juliet (Slava Samodurov)
- Onegin (Cranko)
- Spartacus (Grigorovich)
- Manon (MacMillan)
- Faust (Jean-Christophe Maillot)
- Apollo, Divertimento 15, The Four Temperaments, Thème & Variations, Who Cares (Balanchine)
- Faun (Nijinski)
- Artifact, In The Middle Somewhat Elevated, Impressing the Czar, Herman Schmerman (Forsythe)
- The Grey Area, The Third Light (David Dawson)
- Forgotten Land (Yiri Killian)
- After the rain (Christopher Wheeldon)

Gala performances in New York (Lincoln Center Festival), Tokyo, Nagano (Winter Olympics), Prague, Brussels, Amsterdam (Dutch National Ballet), Luxemburg, Moscow (Gala Prix de Benois), Lausanne, Cannes, Paris (Gala des étoiles), Dortmund, Santiago (50th anniversary), Luik (Les Hivernales de la danse).

Guest Principal The Australian Ballet (2014)

Coordination and publication, Autobiography “Dancer” – 2019

Management and organization “Farewell Gala ‘Boléro - 2019

Teaching Experience

- Prix de Lausanne, The School of American Ballet
- Royal ballet school Antwerp
- Summer school “Jeugd & Dans”
- International Summer school Art of Zurich
- A Companhia Jovem de Ballet do Rio de Janeiro
- Istanbul State Ballet

Awards and Nominations

- Knighted “Chevalier in the order of Leopold” (2016)
- Awarded “Paul Harris Fellowship” by the Rotary International
- Silver Medal Houlgate (1992)
- Prix Professionnel “Prix de Lausanne” (1993)
- “Dancer of the year” by Dance Europe (2003 – 2004 – 2005 – 2006 – 2007 – 2019)
- “Extraordinary partnership” with Aki Saito by Dance Europe (2007 – 2009)
- Nomination, Prix Benois de la danse (Bolshoi Theatre) 2003
- The Critics Award “Ballet 2000” in Cannes (2007)
- Named official Ambassador of Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (2020)
- Ambassador of the campaign “Zie ons dansen” (2021)

Education

- Royal Ballet school Antwerp (graduated 1993)
- Certificate in management and leadership (2018-2021) TiCka/Jef Brouwers.

Media experience

- Movie ‘De Kus’ from Hilde Van Mieghem (2004) choreography/acting/performing
- Member of the jury: season 2021/2022 of Dancing With The Stars (Belgium)
- Movement Direction: Belgium Next Top Model 2023
- Choreography and Movement Direction: “Assisen” Fiction Series, National Belgium Television

Competencies and skills

- Languages:
 - Dutch -Mother tongue
 - English -Professional Fluency
 - French -Professional Fluency
- Driven leadership
- Stress resistant
- Perseverant
- Loyal
- Ambitious
- Empathetic
- Resilient
- Strong communication skills

- Team player
- Motivator