



Clotilde Vayer

Born 13 April 1961

Begins her dance studies at the age of 7 with Raymond Franchetti and Nicole Chirpaz.

In 1969 she enters the Paris Opera Ballet School.

In 1976 she joins the Paris Opera Ballet Company aged only 15 by special permission from the Ministry of Culture.

In 1977 she wins the Gold Medal at the prestigious international dance competition in Varna, Bulgaria.

In 1977 she is promoted from 'Quadrille' to 'Coryphée'

In 1985, still at the Paris Opera, she again wins promotion to the rank of 'Sujet'.

The following year in 1986, she is promoted to the highly coveted position of 'Première Danseuse'.

Her exceptional talent led her to work with many high-profile professors and coaches including such international names as Rudolf Noureev, Gilbert Meyer, Ghislaine Thesmar, Yvette Chauviré, Zizi Jeanmaire, Max Bozzoni, Serge Lifar, Patricia Ruanne, Patrice Bart and Genia Polyakov.

As a soloist, the roles with which she became closely identified include:

Macmillan: 'Das Lied von der Erde', *Manon* (the mistress)

Nijinsky and Béjart: 'The Rite of Spring' *L'élue*

Robbins: 'Dances at a Gathering', 'In the Night', 'The Concert'.

Ninjinska: 'Le Train Bleu', 'Les Biches'.

Massine: 'Le Tricorne'

Noureev: 'Swan Lake' *Odette/Odile*, 'La Bayadère' where she created the role of *Nikiya*, 'Cinderella' *The Sisters*, 'Don Quixote' *Les deux Amies* and *la Danseuse des Rues*, 'Washington Square' *The Aunt*, 'Sleeping Beauty' where she created the role of *Carabosse*, 'Raymonda', 'The Tempest', Romeo and Juliette *The Mother and Rosalind*.

During her years with the Paris Opera Ballet Company she also interpreted key roles by choreographers such as: Serge Lifar, Pierre Lacotte, Anthony Tudor, George Balanchine, Pina Bausch, John Neumeier, Mats Ek, William Forsyth, Merce Cunningham, José Limon, Jiri Kylian, Twyla Tharp, Roland Petit etc....

From 1984 to 1989 she was a member of the exclusive group of dancers assembled by Rudolf Nureev called *Nureev and Friends*.

In 1996 she was invited by Brigitte Lefevre to become Assistant Ballet Master and two years later in 1998 was named Ballet Master at the Paris Opera.

With the arrival of Benjamin Millepied as Ballet Director in 2014 she was promoted to the post of 'Maître de Ballet Assistante à la Direction'. As such, her duties include not only the work with the Corps de Ballet and soloists in the studio together with the artistic responsibility for major productions, but also administrative tasks such as scheduling, casting etc...

As a result she has remounted many of the great classical ballets and worked in close collaboration with an extensive list of major contemporary choreographers, working side by side on such world premières as 'The Apartment' by Mat Ek, 'Romeo and Juliette' by Sasha Waltz or 'Fragment Sketches' by Susanne Linke.

She is regularly invited to remount productions both in France and abroad and also as a jury member at international dance competitions, most recently in Varna and Seoul.

She is proud to have been honored with the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite.