

Gert Weigelt



Gert Weigelt began his training as a classical stage dancer after graduating high school. He studied in Berlin under Tatjana Gsovsky and then in Copenhagen under Birger Bartholin and Vera Volkova.

From 1967 to 1970 he danced with the Royal Swedish Ballet in Stockholm, then with the Swedish Cullberg Ballet from 1970-1972 and later for the Nederlands Dans Theater from 1972-1975. During this time he worked with numerous renowned choreographers such as Hans van Manen, Jerome Robbins, Jiří Kylián, Kurt Jooss, Glen Tetley and Birgit Cullberg.

When his dance career ended, Weigelt studied artistic photography at the Fachhochschule für Kunst und Design in Cologne. He quickly established himself as one of the key German dance photographers. He had been chronicling the work of choreographers such as Pina Bausch, Hans van Manen, Maurice Béjart, Susanne Linke, William Forsythe, Gerhard Bohner and Martin Schläpfer since the mid-70s. In the 70s and 80s, his photos contributed to the journalistic breakthrough of German dance theatre. They appeared in dance magazines such as *Das Tanzarchiv*, *Ballett International/tanz*, *Dance Magazine*, in the Friedrich Verlag publishing company's ballet yearbooks and in numerous daily newspapers.

Since 1992, Gert Weigelt has also produced six short dance videos for television, some of which have won awards at festivals. In 1991, his first ballet calendar, *Dance Vision*, was published by the teNeues publishing company. In parallel, teNeues also produced *Pas de Deux* and *Ballett Gala*. The *Dance* calendar became established on the market from 1997 onwards and is still in circulation today. In 2013, calendar publisher Dumont Kalenderverlag published his *Ballett am Rhein* calendar for the first time. More than 150 of his works have been published as postcards (by Art Unlimited and the Gebr. König Postkartenverlag). Since 2003, Gert Weigelt has had his own column in the online dance magazine www.tanznetz.de. Horst Koeigler called him a "classicist among dance photographers".

In 2014, Weigelt, together with graphic designers Nicolas Markwald and Nina Neusitzer, received the Design Award of the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of Communication Design for a poster series they produced for the Ballet am Rhein. Weigelt, Neusitzer and Markwald also repeatedly received the coveted Red Dot Award: Communication Design, the German prize for Communication Design, which is awarded annually by the Design-Zentrum NRW, for other joint projects they completed for the Ballet am Rhein.

In addition to his journalistic work, Weigelt also devotes himself to portrait and staged body photography. Unlike his stage photography, for which the main parameters such as action and light are predetermined, his studio work allows him to create his own, autonomous body worlds.

Gert Weigelt has been living and working in Cologne since 1975. He is married to dancer and leading coach for classical dance Sighilt Pahl.