



DEUTSCHER  
TANZPREIS  
2023

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

**Peter Appel**

**Jury statement**

The artistic and pedagogical work of Peter Appel (born 1933) has influenced the German ballet and contemporary dance scene in a unique way. His ideas continue to have an impact on dance training and artistic work to this day.

Peter Appel's dance career began in Haarlem continued via Paris and Amsterdam and later to Basel, where in addition to his work as a soloist, he first took on ballet master duties between 1962 to 1964. Since then, he has worked as a teacher and ballet master in Hamburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf and Zurich and as a welcomed guest teacher in Munich, Hanover, Vienna among others.

At the beginning of his career, Peter Appel's experiences with Olga Preobrajenska, Victor Gsovsky, Mathilde Kschessinskaja and Lubov Egorova shaped his pedagogical work. His work with George Balanchine, as well as his training and ballet master engagements with the ensembles from Wazlav Orlikovsky, John Neumeier and Heinz Spoerli, offered him development opportunities to support and challenge dancers in their daily training.

From 1966 to 1976, Appel was artistic director of the Institute for Professional Dance (Institut für Bühnentanz) in Cologne; from 1966 to 1971, he worked as a soloist, ballet master, and intermittent ballet director at the Cologne Opera House and a founding member of the Cologne Dance Forum. Together with John Neumeier, he founded the ballet school of the Hamburg State Opera in 1978.

His way of working was precise, meticulous, inspiring - both the solo work and the way he rehearsed with the ensemble. He quickly grasped and mastered the ideal of choreography. Conveying the compositions to the ensemble was always an important priority for him.

His insight and sensitivity into the works of respective choreographers, as well as his dedication and humor have accompanied renowned choreographers and profoundly shaped and inspired generations of dancers.

His lifelong devotion to dance and his pedagogical talent are honored by the jury with the German Dance Award - Lifetime Achievement.

**Press contact**

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