



GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2023

Malou Airaudo, Josephine Ann Endicott, Lutz Förster und Dominique Mercy

Biography – Malou Airaudo

Malou Airaudo is born in 1948 in Marseille, southern France, where she begins dance lessons at the age of eight in the ballet school of the local opera. In 1963 she joins the ensemble of the Opéra de Marseille under the direction of Joseph Lazzini. In 1965 she becomes a member of the newly founded Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo under the direction of Leonide Massine, where she dances in his choreographies Tannhäuser-Bacchanal with stage design by Salvador Dali and Les gaitées Parisienne. At the same time, she continues her dance studies with ballet masters such as Marika Besobrasova, Solange Golovine, Rosella Hightower, Alexandre Kallioujni, Madame Nora, Raymond Francheti and Nina Vyroubova. In 1968 she dances in the Ballet Théâtre Contemporain under the direction of Jean-Albert Cartier and Françoise Adret, where she performs in pieces by Joseph Lazzini, Georges Skribine, Brian Macdonald, John Butler, Michel Descombay, Milko Sparemblek, Adret and Félix Blaska. Here, in 1969, she meets Manuel Alum, a dancer and choreographer from the Paul Sanasardo Dance Company, who is a guest teacher at the company. She follows him to New York in 1970, where she takes modern dance with Manuel Alum and Paul Sanasardo, as well as ballet classes with Maggie Black. Alum creates the solo "Woman Of Mystic Body" for her. In 1971 she meets Pina Bausch for the first time in Sanasardo's studio. Bausch invites her to join the newly founded Tanztheater Wuppertal in 1973.

Between Worlds

Airaudo is one of the dancers who shape the face of the company from the very beginning. She is already part of Pina Bausch's inaugural production in Wuppertal, "Fritz", and performs in the two Gluck operas "Iphigénie auf Tauris" and "Orpheus und Eurydike", as well as "Ich bring dich um die Ecke", "Adagio - Fünf Lieder von Gustav Mahler", "Café Müller", "Bandoneon" and "Walzer". Her strength is elegiac, dramatic roles, to which she gives an unmistakable character. She takes over Marlis Alt's role of the victim in "Das Frühlingsopfer" and also roles in "Kontakthof", "Keuschheitslegende", "Bluebeard", "Arien", "Auf dem Gebirge hat man ein Geschrei gehört" and "Two Cigarettes in the Dark". Despite her commitments in Wuppertal, she accepts Manuel Alum's invitation to perform in the USA. In 1975 together with Jaques Patarozzi, Dominique Mercy, Héléna Pikon and Dana, she founded the company La Main in Paris. During this time, she meets Carolyn Carlson, with whom she takes lessons and enjoys many years of close collaboration, as in "The Architects" (Paris, 1980) and "Chalk Work" (Venice, 1983), in addition to several improvisations.

The Dance Educator and Choreographer

In 1984 Pina Bausch asks Airaudo to become a professor of modern dance at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen. In 2012, she takes over as director of the Institute for Contemporary Dance. She also works as a choreographer for the Folkwang Tanzstudio, the Ballet de Lorraine and the Grand Théâtre de Genève, among others. Invited by Zekai Fenerci, she creates the pieces "Black Cat", "Somewhere", "The Lost Dragon", "Afternoon", "Robozee vs. Sacre", and "Drang for Urban Dancer of Theater Renegade".

After her retirement in 2018, she assists in re-staging pieces from Pina Bausch's repertoire such as "Iphigénie auf Tauris" at the Semperoper in Dresden. Together with Zekai Fenerci, she has been co-

artistic director of the Herne-based dance collective Renegade since 2018. In collaboration with Germaine Acogny, she develops a new piece titled common ground[s] in 2020, in which the two dancers explore their common heritage and share their life experiences.

Text by Norbert Servos

Translated by Dyane Neiman

World premieres with the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch

- Season 1973/74 Fritz
- Season 1973/74 Iphigenie auf Tauris
- Season 1974/75 Ich bring dich um die Ecke...
- Season 1974/75 Adagio
- Season 1974/75 Orpheus und Eurydike
- Season 1977/78 Renate wandert aus
- Season 1977/78 Café Müller
- Season 1980/81 Bandoneon
- Season 1981/82 Walzer

Took over roles in the following pieces by Pina Bausch

- Das Frühlingsopfer
- Blaubart. Beim Anhören einer Tonbandaufnahme von Béla Bartóks Oper »Herzog Blaubarts Burg«
- Kontakthof
- Arien
- Keuschheitslegende
- 1980 – Ein Stück von Pina Bausch
- Nelken
- Auf dem Gebirge hat man ein Geschrei gehört
- Two Cigarettes in the Dark

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Further information about Malou Airaudó:

https://www.pinabausch.org/person/malou_airaudó

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