

# DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

**Award for outstanding artistic developments**

**URSULA BORRMANN**



*Ursula Borrmann ©Jan Scheutzow*

## **Jury Statement GERMAN DANCE AWARD 2021**

In her many years of tireless work, Ursula Borrmann has contributed extraordinarily to developing the quality of classical dance. Thousands of students have been trained using her method, and generations of professional dancers have passed through her school. Borrmann has established teaching standards for Germany that have become an indispensable part of dance education. What is special about her work is the differentiated advancement of the Vaganova system into a methodology for teaching at private ballet schools, offering teachers in this sector with a method to prepare their students for a professional dance career. The Borrmann-Methodik® (Borrmann Methodology) has helped many schools of artistic dance to offer systematic, continuous and responsible training from the initial preparatory exercises to the most demanding forms of classical dance and thus pave the way to a professional career for their students. Beyond dance skills and abilities, the method places particular importance on musicality, artistic expression, and interpersonal interaction. Ursula Borrmann has the fantastic ability to use her profound knowledge and wealth of experience to instil enthusiasm for the fascinating logic of the methodology of academic dance. Today, a large network of national and international teachers work successfully with the help of the Borrmann-Methodik®, enabling future generations to develop professionally in this wonderful art form.

## Biography

Ursula Borrmann was trained in Dresden and Leningrad (St. Petersburg). In 1958 she completed her studies with W. Kostrowitskaya, receiving the state diploma of the Vaganova Academy. After finishing her career as a soloist at the Dresden State Opera and the Dushanbe State Theatre, she started teaching at the Palucca School in Dresden. Here, her duties included conducting seminars in Russian-Soviet methodology according to the Vaganova method. Following her work as chief instructor at the Berlin State Opera and with the Erich Weinert Ensemble, she was appointed Artistic Director and lecturer at the Leipzig State Ballet School and commissioned with establishing the GDR's first ballet training department. After moving to the Federal Republic, she worked first as a lecturer, and later as the director of the State Ballet Academy in Cologne and its affiliated ballet training department, as well as lecturing at the Cologne International Summer Academy. In addition to continuing education seminars, she has also been offering a correspondence course for teachers at private ballet schools in Germany and Switzerland since 1987.

Ursula Borrmann is one of the few teachers left in Germany who received their knowledge directly from A. Vaganova's assistant W. Kostrowitskaya. Thanks to her detailed knowledge, she was able to develop a methodology for teaching during the first four years of professional training of dancers at private ballet schools based on the curriculum of the Vaganova Leningrad Choreographic School. By virtue of the differentiated advancement of the teaching concept, the Borrmann-Methodik® enables teachers at private ballet schools to continuously train amateurs, from early dance education to classical ballet. Beyond dance skills, the method places special emphasis on values such as interpersonal interaction, musicality, discipline, and willingness to make an effort. The Borrmann-Methodik® does not provide the ballet teacher with a ready-made teaching curriculum but is intended to enable him/her to lead responsible and challenging lessons based on a thorough understanding of the subject matter.

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