

# DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

**Award for outstanding performer**

**ADIL LARAKI**



*Adil Laraki*

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

Adil Laraki is the outstanding performer of German law – to the benefit of all dancers on the stages of this republic. He himself was a dancer, and as an advocate for dancers, he has remained loyal to them. Laraki drives progress by improving the rights of artists and all employees of German theatres through his unionist, cultural policy, and social engagement – and he does so with a great deal of humour and unique skill. You could say that the status of the performers in our theatres is being preserved by a dancer doing what he does best.

Many know Laraki as the theatre lawyer at the Cooperative of German Stage Employees, where he is the chairman of the national association and assessor at the stage arbitration court. He studied stage dance at the Hanover University of Music and Drama and then was hired by the local state theatre before switching to the Essen Ballet. In addition to his many roles in choreographies by Balanchine, Van Manen, Tetley, Jooss, Cullberg and Cranko, he had already begin advocating for the rights of his colleagues as a company spokesman in those early days. Today, he likes to describe himself as a

"shrewd bazaar merchant" and has been working on improving the professional situation in German theatres with charm, passion, and foresight for 30 years.

We are thus honouring one of our ranks who is at least in some measure responsible for the fact that the old stage patriarchy has been crumbling for a few years now and an ensemble network such as dancersconnect has been able to emerge so that artists no longer simply have to follow orders but, thanks to Laraki's advice and the defense he offers them, are enjoying growing rights. Indeed, these changes have meant that dance in general is becoming increasingly important on German stages. In other words: thanks to Adil Laraki, dance is more often in the right and is also enjoying more rights.

## **Biography**

Adil Laraki (\*4 April 1963 in Settat/Morocco) took his first dance steps in his hometown of Rabat (Morocco) at the age of 13 and performed in Morocco's first opera/operetta when he was 14. This engagement was followed by many stage and television appearances. He started his professional dance training at the age of 16 in Lausanne before beginning to study stage dance at the Hanover University of Music and Drama in 1980. While completing his studies, he performed in a number of ballet productions at the State Theatre in Hanover.

After graduating, he was hired by ballet director Heidrun Schwarz in Essen in 1983. He danced in choreographies by Balanchine, Van Manen, Ashton, Tetley, Joos, Cullberg and Cranko, among others.

In parallel to his dance career, he has always been committed to the interests of dancers and was elected as the main spokesperson for the 30-member Essen Ballet ensemble every year from 1985 to 1993. Since 1988, he has been active as chairman of the Essen local association of the Cooperative of German Stage Employees (GDBA) for all employees under standard stage contracts (NV-Bühne Beschäftigte).

From 1988 to 1993 he was a member of both the dance group council and the collective bargaining committee, helping to achieve significant improvements in the working conditions for the dance sector. He has been chairman of the GDBA regional association for North Rhine-Westphalia and a member of the collective bargaining committee since October 2003. He has been serving as an assessor at the stage arbitration court since 1995 and at the higher stage arbitration court since 2010.

He was elected to the works council of the Essen Theatre and Philharmonic Orchestra in 1990 and from 1994 on was relieved of his other duties to focus on his works council work full time. He has been the chairman of the works council since 2002. During his time on the works council, he has been involved in resolving many internal and external crises and helping to overcome various challenges that the theatre has faced.

He has been an employee representative on the supervisory board of the Essen Theatre and Philharmonic Orchestra since 1999 and a member of the selection committee since 2001.

Based on his extensive union and works council experience, Adil Laraki has been conducting seminars on stage and codetermination rights for works and staff councils as well as other employee representatives throughout Germany since 2009. These seminars are intended to inform and sensitise participants regarding the particularities of artists with the aim of giving them the right tools to act appropriately. He is also involved in an advisory capacity in the drafting of employment agreements for the benefit of stage artists at numerous theatres.

He has been a member of the WDR broadcasting council and the programme committee since 2009 and also advocates for increased cultural programming on public television. He has been delegated by the broadcasting council to the Supervisory Board of the NRW Film and Media Foundation since 2014. Since the establishment of the Stiftung TANZ – Transition Centre Germany in 2010, Adil Laraki has been a member of the board of trustees. Supporting dancers in their transitional phase is of great importance to him, and his history as a dancer makes him an excellent point of contact for dance professionals in all matters.

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