

## Jorge Garcia (1935-2021)

Jorge Garcia (Guáimaro, December 19, 1935 – Lisboa, August 8, 2021) was a dancer, ballet master, choreographer and artistic director, who began his career under the direction of Fernando and Alicia Alonso at the National Ballet of Cuba, where the diversity of repertoire and the contact with Russian teachers provided him with a strong foundation in classical dance. He was, at the same time, prepared for his teaching career by Cuban ballerina Menia Martinez, Puerto Rican teacher José Parés and Soviet ballet instructors from the Bolshoi Ballet (Moscow) and the Mariinski Theatre (Saint Peterburg). He also studied dramatic arts and stagecraft in Havana, Cuba.

Mr. Garcia became a choreographer in 1964, and his first dance, *Majísimo*, is still performed by the Cuban National Ballet and by many other companies around the world. Throughout his career, Mr. Garcia toured America, Europe and Asia, which greatly enriched his career. As European resident since 1966, he was successively premier danseur with the Lyons Opera Ballet (France) and the Ballet de Wallonie (Belgium), and ballet master and choreographer with the Ballet de Wallonie, the Balletto del Teatro La Fenice (Italy), the Nouveau Ballet de L'Opéra de Marseille (France) and the Gulbenkian Ballet (Portugal).

In 1976 the Theatre Foundation of the State of Rio de Janeiro invited Mr. Garcia to reorganize and direct the Ballet of the Municipal Theatre. He remained in Brazil until 1979, when he returned to France as ballet master with the Ballet Théâtre Français de Nancy and the National Ballet of Marseille, under the direction of Roland Petit.

As guest ballet master, choreographer and instructor, Mr. Garcia worked regularly with prestigious ballet and modern dance companies, such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (Canada), the Corpo di Ballo del Teatro alla Scala, the Ballet of Teatro di San Carlo from Naples and the Atterballetto (Italy), the Monte-Carlo Ballet (Monaco), the Lyons Opera Ballet (France), the Boston Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (USA), Carlos Acosta and Friends (UK), the Gulbenkian Ballet and the National Ballet (Portugal).

He taught courses and conducted master classes at the Banff Center (Canada), the Festival Internazionale della Danza (Venice – Italy), the Festival Internazionale del Balletto (Nervi, Italy) and several International Summer Dance Courses (Madeira – Portugal), among others.

Over the course of his long career, Mr. Garcia choreographed the following ballets: *Majísimo*, *Amazonia*, *The Walpurgis Night*, *Symphonie n° 39*, *Tanagras*, *Three Movements*, *Duo*, *Symphonic Variations and Consolations*, as well as the staging of *Giselle*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Swan Lake*, *Paquita*, *Le Grand Pas de Quatre*, *Les Sylphides*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and others.

From 1991 to 2010, Mr. Garcia was the teacher coordinator of the Classical Dance discipline at the DanceSchool of the National Conservatory of Portugal (Lisbon) where he staged *La Fille Mal Gardée* in 2002.