

MAGGIE BOOGAART

(1970, Amsterdam – NL)

dancer / choreographer / teacher (D.E.)

co-director Paris Marais Dance School (since 2012)

ex-director company Dragon Productions (1994-2009)

international patron Eliot Smith Company, Newcastle (GB)

teacher recognized by the faculty of the Martha Graham School (NYC)

EARLY TRAINING

Boogaart started her dance training the age of 4 with ballet classes in the dance school of her mother (an ex-dancer of 'Nederlands Opera Ballet', the predecessor of 'Het Nationaal Ballet'). At this moment, she was intensely training to become a pianist. Later (around age 11) following a workshop in Bergen with Anne Walseman, the very young Boogaart took her first contemporary dance class (Martha Graham Technique) and decided to choose a career in dance. She entered the pre-professional training program at Dance Academy Rotterdam (NL - now called 'CODARTS'). This program was pre-dominantly preparing for classical ballet dancers and Boogaart was often encouraged to end her career due to her height (1.83 meters at age 13), yet she persisted her dance training. In 1988, she was accepted for the professional training program at London Contemporary Dance School (GB).

PRINCIPAL DANCER / CHOREOGRAPHER

Upon graduating LCDS, Boogaart danced with contemporary dance companies all over the world, first as a trainee (Mudances-Barcelona, Carmen Senra-Madrid, Laurie Booth-Antwerp, Or Bagim-Amsterdam, Dansersstudio-Amsterdam), later mostly as a principal dancer and often in the original cast (Aukje Gorter-Arnhem, Pandora-Den Haag, Jeanet Stoner-NYC, Ann Carlson-NYC, Suki John-NYC...). She had managed to turn her deviating height into her advantage and was often invited to join a company / project after a choreographer viewed her on stage. Being part of these creative processes lead by creative and highly experienced choreographers, inspired Boogaart to create theater and a movement language of her own. Her choreographic talent was discovered by Beppie Blankert, who gave Boogaart the chance to work out her ideas at Danswerkplaats-Amsterdam (DWA), coached by the highly expressive choreographer Wies Bloemen (Danstheater Aya-Amsterdam). Shortly after (1994), Boogaart started her own dance company Dragon Productions, premiered her first evening-length creation at Melkweg-Amsterdam and in the meantime received a scholarship to further her studies at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance (NYC). Here, Boogaart deepened her knowledge of this strong fundamental contemporary dance technique, as well as choreographic composition and Martha Graham repertory. In NYC Boogaart continued dancing for other contemporary choreographers, as well as developing dance-theater productions for her own company in collaboration with skilled artists in different disciplines (composers Lisa Gutkin, Iwona Ludyga, Edwin Slothouber, Jasper de Beer, Martin Draax/ painters Beverly Mezzaresta, Eric Stewart, actor Stipo Jelec, Light designer Natasja Giebels, etc etc).

TEACHER / early years

In 1998 Boogaart returned to her native town to continue building on the creations for her own company, as well as theater productions / choreographies of other artists (designers Ellen Schipper, AZIZ, choreographer Yoka van Brummelen...), while sharing her knowledge of the Martha Graham Technique with students at the dance academies in the Netherlands. (CODARTS-Rotterdam, Fontys-Tilburg, Theaterschool-Amsterdam, ArteZ-Arnhem, Vooropleiding Maastricht, Vooropleiding Haarlem...)

RESEARCH / SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

Her creative work with her company members, both dancers & artists, as well as her in-depth movement research, brought Boogaart much insight into different approaches of communication, especially non-verbal communication. The choreographer developed this into several workshops for special groups like teenagers, people with little or no sight (blind), psychologists, business managers, etc. Boogaart directed conferences on non-verbal communication for corporations like ABN/AMRO bank, UNILEVER, etc., successfully coaching managers into 'reading' their clients minds and/or clearly showing their own intentions and thus improving their business. Boogaart developed her research based upon her choreography on women's right ('It's My Right') in cooperation with

Amnesty International into conferences for worldwide action-groups for human rights, to raise awareness on the absence of the executions of human rights in most countries. Boogaart simultaneously developed empowerment workshops to coach women and men into finding their own mental strength through physical training/meditation (Boogaart's 'Feel the Spirit'-workshops, in cooperation with company Fitness First-Netherlands)

NEW HORIZONS / RECOGNITION

In 2008, Boogaart was invited in Paris-France as a guest teacher at the largest dance center of Paris (Centre de Danse du Marais). Feeling the great energy of this art-loving city and -center, Boogaart decided to end her Amsterdam-based work (last performance of her company Dragon Productions + her last classes taught in Amsterdam, December 2009) and start a new episode of her career in Paris January 2010. This geographical move opened many new horizons for Boogaart, as she now started receiving international invitations as well as recognition of her work (Centre Cynthia Jouffre-Alsace, Azur Dansacademie Bordeaux, EDAS workshops Salzburg and Valencia invited her to teach/create as well as perform). Re-connecting with the Martha Graham School in NYC she started receiving validations for her teaching of the technique (school director Virginie Mycene, ex-school director Stuart Hodes, ex-principals Jacquelyn Buglisi and Kazuko Hirabayashi) and was allowed to appoint her students scholarships for the Martha Graham School. (2 of Boogaart's ex-Paris-students were accepted in Graham Dance Company II) Soon after her entering the Centre de Danse du Marais as a permanent teacher, she was discovered by Peter Sparling (ex-principal dancer of the Martha Graham Company), who was in Paris working on research/creations. Since then, Sparling regularly assists her classes, validating her pedagogy, and he invited Boogaart to participate in his movement and Graham technique researches (Paris-2010) and later brought her over to CODARTS-Oslo (N-2011) as his teaching assistant and Michigan University (Ann Arbor-USA, 2012) to choreograph on Boogaart and have her guest teach the students.

Being located in Paris since 2010, is giving Boogaart the chance to continuously work with / perform / create for challenging artists like designer Nick Cave (USA), choreographer Jocelyn Alizart (B), singer / poet / composer Anne Clark (GB), film director Judith Bernard (F), singer/composer Wax Tailor (F) etc...

CREATIVE CHANCES / OPENING SCHOOL

Upon returning in Paris in 2009 Boogaart had met ex-ballet principal dancer Ghislain de Compreignac and invited him to join her company Dragon Productions in Amsterdam. De Compreignac (ex-soloist Ballet du Nord and her husband) and Boogaart first danced together in the last production of her company Dragon Productions and became partners. Meeting with de Compreignac has allowed Boogaart to now create for highly trained technical dancers and she since regularly choreographs technically demanding duets that they perform together. In addition, Boogaart & de Compreignac opened a professional training program (Paris Marais Dance School for ballet & contemporary-Graham) for dancers at the Centre de Danse du Marais mid 2012, providing constant research possibilities for better training for today's dancers, as well as the PMDS Junior Ballet, of which Boogaart is the founder and main choreographer. Boogaart's daily teaching in Paris in 3 different technical levels provides a constant availability of dancers with a good visceral awareness and skills, allowing her to study & create large choreographies on her advanced level students. In addition, being based in Paris continues to offer constant opportunities for performing Boogaart's creations: (musee du Louvre, musee Rodin, studio Micadanses, theatre Cirque d'Hiver, etc).

MOVING ON

Mid 2014, Boogaart met the young British choreographer Eliot Smith, and became the mentor of this young choreographer as well as international patron of his company; in 2015, she created "SPACE" on commission by Eliot Smith Company. End 2015, Boogaart received an invitation by political scientist and journalist Virginie Martin, to embark on a series of coaching in non-verbal communication and presentation for Kedge Business School in Paris. Boogaart continues her creations of choreographies and dance-theatre production for her PMDS Junior Ballet Company, like "Breathe", inspired by the emerging attention for the world's ecology, which premiered June 2016 and is working on a series of videos in collaboration with opera singer Margitta Rosales and documentary maker Virginie Agneray.