

Dinna Bjørn

Dinna Bjørn is one of the few distinguished Bournonville specialists in the ballet world of today.

After private studies with Edite Frandsen, former ballerina of The Riga Opera Ballet, she joined Royal Danish Ballet in 1964. In 1966 she had her soloist debut in the role of the young girl in *Afternoon of a Faun* by Jerome Robbins, and two years later she won the bronze medal and a special prize for artistic interpretation at The International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria, where she danced Bournonville's *Flower Festival* in Genzano pas de deux, for the first time shown at a Ballet Competition.

In 1975 she started teaching Bournonville classes and giving lectures on Bournonville, and together with Frank Andersen she took the initiative, in 1976, to create the touring Bournonville Group Soloists of The Royal Danish Ballet. The group toured under their directorship worldwide with a Bournonville repertoire every summer until 1989.

In 1987 she left The Royal Danish Ballet to pursue a freelance career as Bournonville teacher and producer, but accepted in 1990 to become artistic director of The Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo, a position she held for twelve years. From 1997 to 2000 she was also the Bournonville Consultant to The Royal Danish Ballet. In 2001 she was offered to become artistic director of The Finnish National Ballet in Helsinki, and stayed with that company until 2008.

Through the years, since 1987, Dinna Bjørn has been active staging Bournonville productions, arranging seminars and teaching Bournonville courses worldwide. She has staged *La Sylphide* for Bavarian State Ballet (Munich), Boston Ballet (Boston), Norwegian National Ballet (Oslo), Hong Kong Ballet (Hong Kong), Capitole Ballet (Toulouse), Universal Ballet (Seoul), Bulgarian State Ballet (Sofia), Het Nationale Ballet (Amsterdam), Paris Opera Ballet School (Paris), Grazer Landestheater Ballet (Graz), Royal Danish Ballet (Copenhagen), Ballet du Rhin (Mulhouse/Strasbourg), Ballet Nice Méditerranée (Nice) and West Australian Ballet.