



Master classes Carolyn Carlson



Time, Space, Form and Perpetual Motion are the tools needed to create a graphic and poetic language. You have to be in contact with the world, aware of its sufferings, study the arts, music and poetry, be open to others and all these experiences will inspire your way of dancing. The richer your life, the richer your dance will be. An artist must have just one obsession in life: to touch people's souls and reveal the share of poetry within them. This search for the invisible will help you rise up. We other dancers, we steal moments of grace from the universe.

Carolyn Carlson

Master classes



Throughout her own training, Carolyn Carlson came across brilliant dance teachers, from Anna Sokolov, the choreographer and teacher marked by her collaboration with Martha Graham, via Joan Woodbury, a pupil of Mary Wigman and pillar of dance education at the University of Utah, to Alwin Nikolais, for whom she was a dancer from 1965 to 1972. More than a technique, Nikolais passed on to Carlson a philosophy based on

improvisation, choreographic composition and a concept of the dancing body according to four principles: time, space, form and continuity of movement. He also instilled in her the conviction that creation and learning are inseparable, that you only create because you discover.

Since then, Carolyn Carlson has become a creator and teacher in her own right. She has passed on her approach to movement as poetic gesture to several generations of dancers all over the world, particularly in France, Italy and Finland.

This passion for passing on led her to establish and direct a dance school in Venice, the Accademia Isola Danza, from 1999 to 2002. In 1999, she also founded the Atelier de Paris, an international training centre where the greatest masters come to impart their knowledge.

Guardians of Carlson's dance idiom, those who perform in her pieces in turn acquire her liking for passing on. When on tour, the Company often organises masterclasses led by the choreographer and her performers alongside the shows.

Conditions

masterclass duration | 2 to 4 hours

(broken down into a class based on the Alwin Nikolais approach and an improvisation / composition session)

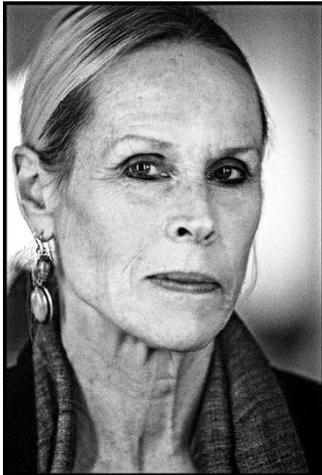
participants | up to 25 professional or pre-professional dancers

space | dance studio (with a mat), minimum dimensions: 12 m x 12 m

music | musical accompanist hired directly by organiser (Eastern percussion instruments like tabla, bell, gong etc)

performer requirements | dressing room with catering; transport, pick up and accommodation paid for by organiser

Carolyn Carlson



California-born Carolyn Carlson defines herself first and foremost as a nomad. From San Francisco Bay to the University of Utah, from the Alwin Nikolais company in New York to Anne Béranger's in France, from Paris Opera Ballet to Teatrodanza La Fenice in Venice, from the Théâtre de la Ville de Paris to Helsinki, from Ballet Cullberg to La Cartoucherie in Paris, from the Venice Biennale to Roubaix, Carlson is a tireless traveller, always seeking to develop and share her poetic universe.

She arrived in France in 1971 the beneficiary of Alwin Nikolais' ideas about movement, composition and teaching. The following year, with *Rituel pour un rêve mort*, she wrote a poetic manifesto that defined an approach to her work that she has adhered to ever since: dance that is strongly oriented towards philosophy and spirituality. Carlson prefers the term 'visual poetry' to 'choreography' to describe her work.

For four decades, Carlson has had significant influence and success in many European countries. She played a key role in the birth of French and Italian contemporary dance through the GRTOP (theatre research group) at Paris Opera Ballet and Teatrodanza at La Fenice.

She has created over 100 pieces, a large number of which are landmarks in the history of dance, including *Density 21.5*, *The Year of the Horse*, *Blue Lady*, *Steppe*, *Maa*, *Signes*, *Writings on Water* and *Inanna*. In 2006, her work was rewarded with the first ever Golden Lion given to a choreographer by the Venice Biennale.

Founder of the Atelier de Paris-Carolyn Carlson at the Cartoucherie in 1999, she was associated artist to Théâtre National de Chaillot with the Carolyn Carlson Company from 2014 to 2016. In 2017, besides touring her repertoire, the choreographer explores new forms of creations: an exhibition for museums, a full-length dance movie for cinema... In 2019 she became a French citizen.

Career highlights

- 1965-1971** Soloist in the Alwin Nikolais Company
- 1974-1980** Etoile-Chorégraphe ('Star Choreographer') at Paris Opera Ballet (GRTOP)
- 1980-1984** Artistic director of Teatrodanza La Fenice, Venice
- 1985-1991** Residence at the Théâtre de la Ville, Paris
- 1991-1992** Residence at the Finnish National Ballet and Helsinki City Theatre
- 1994-1995** Artistic director of Ballet Cullberg, Stockholm
- 1999-2002** Artistic director of the dance section at the Venice Biennale
- Since 1999** Founder and honorary President of the Atelier de Paris-Carolyn Carlson
- 2004-2013** Director of the National Choreographic Centre Roubaix Nord-Pas de Calais
- Since 2014** Director of the Carolyn Carlson Company
- 2014-2016: residency at the Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris

Carolyn Carlson Company

The Carolyn Carlson Company is a hive of activity, a space of creativity and freedom in which intertwine gesture and poetic thought...

After nine years as director of the Centre Chorégraphique National in Roubaix, Carolyn Carlson returns to Paris and funds her company, the Carolyn Carlson Company in residency at the Théâtre National de Chaillot from 2014 to 2016.

With a unique repertory and accompanied by dancers true to her universe, Carlson pursues her creative process: each year, the Carolyn Carlson Company carries out at least two large scale projects, a creation and the transmission of repertoire pieces to the most prestigious international ballets, while at the same time touring the choreographer's shows throughout the world and transmitting the work of the prima ballerina choreographer through film productions, books and exhibitions...

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