



CARMEN MATEU
YOUNG ARTIST EUROPEAN AWARD
Opera and Dance

Julio Bocca

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he has been an international dance star, director and manager. After training at the National School of Dance, in 1982 he joined the Chamber Ballet of the Colón Theatre as a child prodigy, and a year later he was already performing as a soloist.

His career began as principal dancer with the Teresa Carreño Foundation in Caracas, in 1985 he won the Gold Medal at the International Competition in Moscow, and the following year he began a 20-year relationship with the American Ballet Theatre in New York as principal dancer.

He is a frequent guest dancer with many companies, including the Royal Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, Kirov Ballet, Ballet de La Scala, Royal Danish Ballet, Oslo Opera House, Stuttgart Ballet, Paris Opera, Cuban National Ballet, Ballet de Santiago, Eifman Ballet, New World Ballet of Venezuela, National Ballet of Mexico, Cairo Opera Ballet, National Ballet of Spain and San Martín Theatre Ballet in Buenos Aires. He took part in the opening of the Helsinki Opera, having also presented in Poland, the Philippines, Greece and Japan, and in the Havana Festival and the leading festivals in Europe.

He has shared a stage with Natalia Makarova, Nina Ananiashvili, Eleonora Cassano, Alessandra Ferri, Cecilia Figaredo, Carla Fracci, Cynthia Gregory, Cynthia Harvey, Paloma Herrera, Susan Jaffe, Julie Kent, Amanda McKerrow, Noelle Pontois, Raquel Rossetti, Tamara Rojo, Viviana Durante, Heidi Ryon, Darcey Bussell, Sara Nieto, Silvia Bazilis, Cristina Delmagro, Ana Botafogo, Monique Loudières, Ludmila Semeniaka, Cecilia Kerche, Monique Loudières, Ludmila Semeniaka, Cecilia Kerche, Aurélie Dupont, Cheryl Yeager, Mariana Tcherkassky, Arantxa Argüelles and Maria Ricceto.

In 1994, he founded the Ballet Argentino, touring all over the world. He has worked with Plácido Domingo, Mstislav Rostropovich and Isaac Stern in popular shows in front of thousands of people, such as in Luna Park in Buenos Aires, where he gave over 140 performances. In 1997, he opened his dance and directing studio, and the following year he opened the Musical Theatre School. He toured the USA with *Fosse*, premièred *Boccatango* by Ana María Stekelman, created a ballet for the opera *Henry VIII* by Saint-Säens together with Montserrat Caballé in the Liceu in Barcelona, took part in China in the Balanchine Centenary Festival, danced at the Benois and Bournonville galas, premièred numerous choreographies and, on 22 December 2007, he retired by dancing at the foot of the Buenos Aires obelisk in front of over 300,000 spectators.

He has been a jurist in a great many competitions, including the Benois de la Danse in Russia, Rome Prize, Youth America Grand Prix, Prix de Lausanne, as well as chairing the Julio Bocca Competition in Buenos Aires. He regularly gives masterclasses and was, for seven years, artistic director of the Sodre National Ballet in Uruguay.

He has taken part in a number of films, including *Tango, Baile nuestro* by Zanada (1994), *Tango* by Saura (1997) and *Especial de la Tierra* for National Geographic (2008). He has collaborated in initiatives by the Red Cross and UNICEF, he is a Cultural Ambassador for Mercosur, and he is a member of the International Dance Council of the UNESCO.



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He has been recognised by leading institutions and specialist media in Italy, France, Russia, Israel, Spain, USA, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina. He is a Distinguished Citizen of Buenos Aires, an honorary doctor of the Siglo 21 University in Cordoba and Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters of France.