

## Ricardo Amarante

### Commissioned Choreographer

Ricardo Amarante began dancing in Brazil following the RAD examinations syllabus and completed his studies on scholarship at the National Ballet School of Cuba. After taking part in the Genée International Ballet Competition in 1998, he was offered a scholarship at the English National Ballet School in London where he was awarded the RAD Solo Seal.

The following year he worked with the prestigious Paris Opera Ballet and then joined Jeune Ballet de France, travelling and performing around the world.

In 2000, Ricardo joined the Royal Ballet of Flanders. He was promoted to half soloist in 2003 and then soloist in 2008. Throughout his career he has performed soloist and leading roles in all the major classical ballets, and has also worked with the master choreographers from the contemporary dance world.

Ricardo created several ballets for the Coupe Maison initiative with the Royal Ballet of Flanders: *Desert*, *A Fuego Lento*, *Aquarela*, *Sonho Angelical*, *Train of Thoughts*, *Lune'Air*, *Love Fear Loss*, *My Way* and *Rondo Capriccioso*.

*Aquarela* was re-staged for the Royal Ballet of Flanders in 2010 for an audience of over 2,000. *Sonho Angelical* was re-staged for Ballet Dortmund in Germany in 2011 and *A Fuego Lento* for the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp in 2013. The solo *My Way* was re-created for YAGP.

Ricardo was nominated in December 2013 for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Choreographer programme.

He has also created a new ballet, *Essential Shift*, for the SESSIONS programme by the New York City Ballet & Choreographic Institute, where he worked with composer Sayo Kosugi.

Recently, he has been commissioned by the Royal Ballet of Flanders to produce a new ballet for a mixed bill in May 2015.

Ricardo's ballets are characterised by energetic, emotional and sensitive choreography to which audiences tend to respond in a positive manner. Several dance magazines including *Dance Europe* and *Danse Magazine Paris* have reviewed his work as highly successful.