

Wim Vanlessen – Biography

Wim Vanlessen, former Principal Dancer with the Royal Ballet of Flanders, is the Artistic Director and Founder of *Time To Dance*, an *International Ballet Gala*, and the *Dansersfonds scholarship*, which supports young dancers at the start of their careers. He is one of Belgium's most celebrated ballet artists.

A *Prix de Lausanne* laureate, he joined the Royal Ballet of Flanders in 1994, where he quickly rose to the rank of Principal Dancer. During his twenty-five-year career, Vanlessen performed leading roles in works by Béjart, Forsythe, Balanchine, Grigorovich, and Akram Khan, and created roles with choreographers including Christian Spuck, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and David Dawson.

Knighted *Chevalier in the Order of Leopold* for his contribution to the arts, he was named *Dancer of the Year* multiple times by *Dance Europe Magazine* for his exceptional performances, notably in Béjart's *Bolero*.

Beyond the stage, Wim is a guest teacher at La Scala, an international judge at the *Prix de Lausanne*, and a judge on *Dancing with the Stars* Belgium. His collaborations as a creative movement director include Dries Van Noten, Carolina Herrera, Delvaux, and *Vogue World 2025*.

He is the author of *Dancer*, an acclaimed autobiography and visual journey through his career, and *Een heel bijzondere jongen (A very special boy)*, a children's book inspiring young dancers to follow their dreams.