



Presentation of the department

HISTORY

The creation of the Dance Department of the Lyon CNSMD was largely due to the initiative of Igor Eisner, whose analysis and determination to bring the project to fruition were determining factors, and to the preparatory study by Léone Mail. It was Igor Eisner who first understood the necessity of giving high level dance teaching full institutional recognition.

The move had been prefigured, a few years earlier, by the more open course content that accompanied the creation of the Lyon CNSMD, with the arrival of subsidiary subjects, heralding a new era in music teaching in higher education. Thus the Lyon CNSMD had become the ideal place for the creation of the first dance department, which saw the light in 1985. The department flourished quickly under the impetus of its first director, Didier Deschamps, and moved to its new premises on the third floor of the Grenier de l'Abondance in 1992, only a few yards away from the Music Department.

When Philippe Cohen arrived in Lyon in September 1990 to take over as director, the department was in the happy position of being about to transfer to a wonderful new work environment.

Since those early days the department has never lost sight of the inspiration given at the outset by Igor Eisner and Didier Deschamps, namely the desire to progress incessantly, never taking anything for granted, the constant readiness to call anything and everything into question if it is relevant to the needs of teaching the art of choreography.

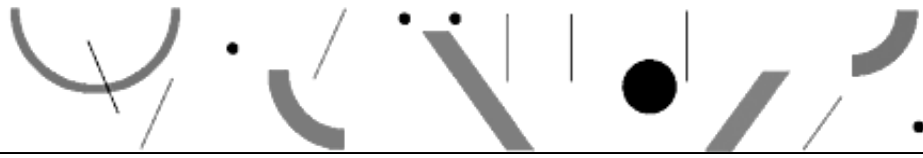
It takes teamwork to face up to a challenge of this sort. Every individual member of staff since 1985 has made a contribution to the successful development of the department, as have the teaching and administrative staff of the Lyon CNSMD as a whole. Thanks to the means put at its disposal, the dance department has grown very quickly.

PREMISES

The dance department is housed in separate premises very close to the remainder of the CNSMD, known as the "Le Grenier d'Abondance" (Granary of Plenty). This building, which was built in the first half of the 18th century, is listed in the Supplementary Inventory of Historical Buildings and also occupied by the Regional Office of Cultural Affairs. 15000 sq. ft. of space on the top floor are given over to dance teaching.

The premises are comprised of:

- four studios – two measuring 1500 sq ft, one of 1600 sq ft and one of 3750 sq ft that can be transformed into a performance stage so that students can work in real theatre conditions



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- one teaching room that can be used a students' common room (with a video room and rest and leisure area)