

## Nijinsky's L'Après-midi d'un Faune

L'Après-midi d'un Faune was recorded in 1915 by Vaslav Nijinsky using his own dance notation system. The score lay unused in the British Library for nearly 40 years after his death because nobody could read it. Restagings of the ballet relied exclusively on dancers' memories and photographic evidence. With the inevitable loss of detail and the distortions of personal movement preference, the piece lost accuracy and identity.

In 1988 Ann Hutchinson Guest and Claudia Jeschke deciphered Nijinsky's notation system and translated his score into Labanotation. Study of the score provides great insight into the creative genius of Nijinsky's choreography and reveals a greater subtlety of movement, individual characterisation, and a softer, more flowing and musical style of performance than memory-based restagings of the ballet.



Ann Hutchinson Guest demonstrates to Pedro Barrios how the faun holds and relates to the nymph's dress

## Ann Hutchinson Guest's Faune Timeline

- 1987 Ann Hutchinson Guest and Claudia Jeschke transcribe Nijinsky's score
- 1988 First trial at Royal Ballet School, April.
- 1989 First performance at Teatro San Carlo, Naples, Feb  
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Montreal, Canada, August with Claudia Jeschke performed October  
Juilliard Dance Ensemble, New York, performed December.
- 1992 University of Illinois, Urbana, January. Mary Corey taught.  
Zurich Ballet, Opernhaus Zurich, Switzerland with Claudia Jeschke
- 1994 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Oct, performed Feb 1995
- 1995 Oakland Ballet, California, September, with Claudia Jeschke, Jill Beck taught.
- 1996 Verona Ballet, Verona, Italy, May  
University of Hawaii, Manoa, August, with Claudia Jeschke.  
Berlin Staatsoper, Unter den Linden, Germany, performed October
- 1997 Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Montreal, Canada, October with Claudia Jeschke.  
Washington University
- 1998 Chamber Dance Group, University of Washington, Seattle  
Dance Department, Boston Conservatory of Music, February  
Dance Department, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, March. Learned parts from score.
- 2000 The Royal Ballet, London, May with Claudia Jeschke
- 2002 Accademia Nazionale di Danza, Rome, Italy, performed July with Claudia Jeschke
- 2004 The Royal Ballet, London, May
- 2005 OSU, taught by John Giffin, Performed May  
Taipei National University of the Dance (TNUA), Nov, taught by Yun-Yu Wang,
- 2006 Dance Group, Princeton University, USA, Feb, Tina Curran taught  
Dance Department, Colorado College, USA, March, Yun-Yu taught.
- 2007 Goucher College, Baltimore, USA, April with Claudia Jeschke, performed May  
University of Indiana, Bloomington, USA, October with Claudia Jeschke
- 2009 Barnard College, NYC, April, Tina Curran taught.  
Munich, Bavarian State Ballet, Feb with Claudia Jeschke, performed May

## Further Reading

Language of Dance® Series No.3 Nijinsky's Faune Restored

