

# Roberto Bolle

*Étoile* - La Scala Theatre, Milan  
*Principal Dancer* - American Ballet Theatre, New York

Roberto Bolle was born in Casale Monferrato, Italy. When he was extremely young he entered La Scala Theater Ballet School. Rudolf Nureyev was the first to notice his talent when he was only 15. In 1996 he was promoted to Principal with La Scala Ballet Company. His repertory includes leading classical roles and works by the most famous choreographers, such as Balanchine, Forsythe, Petit and Neumeier.

As a guest artist he has appeared with the major ballet companies all over the world with such partners as Darcey Bussell, Alessandra Ferri, Carla Fracci, Sylvie Guillem, Greta Hodgkinson, Lucia Lacarra, Tamara Rojo, Polina Semionova, Svetlana Zakharova.

Derek Deane, the English National Ballet director, created two productions for him: *Swan Lake* and *Romeo and Juliet*, both of them performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London. On the 10th anniversary of the Opera Theatre in Cairo, he performed in a fabulous *Aida* at the pyramids of Giza and afterwards at the Arena in Verona for a new version of the opera live worldwide.

In October 2000 he opened the season at Covent Garden Opera House in London performing *Swan Lake*, Anthony Dowell's choreography, and in November he was invited to Bolshoi to celebrate Maja Plisetskaja's 75th anniversary in the presence of President Putin.

In June 2002, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee, he danced at Buckingham Palace in the presence of the Queen. The event was broadcast live by BBC and transmitted to all the Commonwealth countries. During the season 2003-2004 he was promoted to Etoile of La Scala Theatre. On 1st April 2004 he danced in front of the Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square to celebrate Young People's Day. On 7th December 2004, to celebrate the re-opening of La Scala Theatre after its restoration, he danced *Europa riconosciuta* with Alessandra Ferri and three weeks later in the New Year's Eve Star Gala. In 2005, he danced *Apollon Musagète* at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg at the Fourth International Festival. In December 2005, he performed at Covent Garden in Frederick Ashton's *Sylvia* which was broadcast by BBC on Christmas Day.

In February 2006 he danced at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Turin where he performed a solo created for him by Enzo Cosimi. The ceremony was broadcast worldwide and seen by 2.5 billion people. In 2007 he performed for the first time as a guest artist with ABT, on the occasion of Alessandra Ferri's farewell performance. Early in 2009 he was appointed Principal Dancer with ABT. It was the first time that a male Italian dancer had joined the Company as a Principal. Since then he has performed every year in New York for the ABT's MET season. In 2009 the World Economic Forum awarded him "Young Global Leader". Since 1999 he has been a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF. He has already visited Sudan (2006) and the Central African Republic (2010) to raise funds and awareness for children whose lives have been affected by violence. In 2010 he met and worked with two great movie directors. Peter Greenway, whose virtual image of Roberto Bolle dominated the Italian Pavillon at the Shanghai Expo 2010 and Bob Wilson who created *Perchance to Dream*, a series of 30 video portraits featuring Roberto Bolle. The special installation was firstly presented in New York in December 2010.

In November 2012 he was appointed "Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" by Giorgio Napolitano, the President of the Italian Republic, for his support to the Italian culture.

On September 17th 2013 *Roberto Bolle and Friends Gala* took place at New York City Center. This special Evening was the highlight event of the project: 2013 - The Year of Italian Culture in the United States.