



Jean-Yves Esquerre first studied dance with Monique Malo and received his artistic training at the multidisciplinary school, Mudra, in Brussels. He then danced with Maurice Béjart's Les Ballets du XXème Siècle, John Neumeier's Hamburg Ballet and Jiri Kylian's Nederlands Dans Theater.

In 1986, Esquerre was appointed ballet master of Le Ballet du Louvre, originally formed by Rudolf Nureyev, and staged a production of *Giselle*. In 1987, he was offered the position of Artistic Director of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo. During his tenure, the company's repertoire expanded significantly to include works by George Balanchine, Pierre Lacotte, Anthony Tudor, John Neumeier, Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe, Roland Petit, Maurice Béjart and masterpieces from Les Ballets Russes.

Throughout the years, Esquerre traveled the world to teach mindfulness techniques and developed a program of therapeutic dance exercises designed for injury prevention and post-surgery rehabilitation. He worked as a guest ballet master/teacher for English National Ballet and School, Boston Ballet and School, Le Cirque du Soleil, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Royal Winnipeg Ballet and School, Banff Center for the Arts, Royal Ballet School of London, Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Paris Opera Ballet and National Ballet of Canada to name a few. He also served as a juror/chairman in several international ballet competitions such as Prix de Lausanne.

Between 2007 and 2010, Esquerre worked with the San Francisco Ballet in several capacities, including company teacher, coach and school faculty member. In 2008, he was appointed Assistant to the Artistic Director for San Francisco Ballet's 75th anniversary season. During these three years, as Trainee Program Director, he developed a teacher-training program, led improvisation & choreography workshops and offered performances throughout California.

Since 2010, while guesting around the world, Esquerre was entrusted by the Government of Canada with the artistic evaluation of l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, the National Ballet School of Canada and the School of Alberta Ballet. He also staged works for the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, the Royal Ballet School and the English National Ballet School.

The directorate of de Theaterschool of the Amsterdam University of the Arts has appointed Jean-Yves Esquerre as artistic director of the National Ballet Academy from 3 March 2014.