



Almira Osmanović is a Croatian Prima Ballerina, a title she has held since 1990. She has received numerous awards while traveling the world as a dancer, choreographer, artistic director and expert judge. Her repertoire includes classical and contemporary ballet performances for national and international productions.

Almira began her ballet training in Zagreb under the tutelage of the reputed ballet teacher Silvia Hercigonja. In recognition of her talent, Almira won a scholarship for the Agripina Vaganova Academy for Choreography and Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia. There she became a student of Ljudmila Safronova, another renowned ballet instructor.

In 1979, Almira became a soloist in the Croatian National Ballet in Zagreb and was soon regarded as one of the most prominent dancers in Yugoslavia. Her influence was officially recognized in 1990 when she obtained the status of prima ballerina.

Of the many prizes Almira has received at domestic and international ballet contests, her most notable are the Grand Prix at the 1982 Yugoslavian National Competition in Novi Sad and the Special Prize for Unique Artistic Creation at the 1984 World Ballet Contest in Osaka, Japan.

Almira has worked with world-famous choreographers like Vaczlav Orlikowsky, Peter Breuer, Milko Šparemblek, Oleg Danovski, Rami Be'er, Ivica Sertić, Vasco Wellenkamp, Miljenko Vikić, Milorad Miškovich, Ksenija Zec, Nada Kokotović, Mare Sesardić, among others.

Almira has held major roles in numerous classical and contemporary works. Her repertoire includes pieces such as *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Raymonda*, *Le Corsaire*, *Diana & Acteon*, *Paquita*, *Graduation Ball*, *Serenade*, *Devil In The Village*, *The Gingerbread Heart*, *Carmen*, *The Four Seasons*, *The Triumph of Aphrodite*, *Medea*, *The Songs of Love and Hate*, *Bach Suite*, *Ballads Brought by the Wind*, *The Miraculous Mandarin* and *Johannes Faust Passion*. She has danced on many major stages in Europe, America and Japan. For several years, as a permanent guest dancer, she performed in Düsseldorf, Köln, Duisburg and Bern.

Having established herself as an accomplished dancer, Almira expanded her work to include additional areas of ballet production. From 1994. to 2002., she was the Artistic Director of the Croatian National Ballet in Zagreb. She later held the same position at the Croatian National Theatre in Split from 2002. to 2012.

In her role as director of the national ballet in Split, Almira was lauded for staging remarkable performances of classical titles that remain integral to the company repertoire. These include *Giselle*, *Graduation Ball*, *The Nutcracker* and *Don Quixote*. During Almira's tenure as artistic director, ballet in Split achieved global renown. This transition became apparent with the 2006 staging of *Swan Lake*, which was performed with an entirely in-house cast. The premier received international acclaim, leading the company to tour abroad using both modern and classical arrangements. The tour included performances at Israel's Karmiel International Dance Festival and the opening of the Pfalzbau Theater season in Ludwigshaffen, Germany. The tour also included performances at the International Dance Festival in Madrid, Spain; the Slovenian National Theatre in Maribor, Slovenia; and the 11th International Baltic Ballet Festival in Riga, Latvia. The company also performed in Lugano, Switzerland and many Italian cities such as Rome, Bologna, Torino, Milano, Bergamo, Brescia, Pescara, Catania, Napoli, Ferrara, Mantova, Lecce and San Remo.

Under Almira's leadership, the Croatian National Theatre in Split received numerous awards. In 2003, the company received the Ballet Triptych Peristyle Award for the best ballet performance at the Split Summer Festival. The ballet ensemble received the annual Ana Roje Award in 2004. In 2006, Almira, Rami Be'er and the entire Split ballet were recognized for performing *Magnum* with the Judita Award for the Best Dance Performance at the Split Summer Festival. In 2007, *Magnum* was selected by the audience as the best performance of the Zagreb Dance Week Festival.

Since 2012, Almira has been receiving acclaim for her choreography in Croatia and abroad. Some of her most admired works include *The Rape of Lucretia* of B. Britten performed at the Opera Theatre Verdi in Trieste, Italy; *Troia's Discount of Ricci/Forte* at the ZKM Theatre in Zagreb; and *Cinderella* by C. Perrault, which was performed at both the Croatian National Theatre in Split and the Trešnja Theatre in Zagreb.

Almira has been recognized as an invaluable resource to Croatia and the world of dance. She currently serves as an associate professor in the Theatre Arts Department at the Arts Academy in Split, University Libertas in Zagreb and Music Academy in Pula. She is also a member of the Cultural Committee for Theatre and Dance Activities for the city of Zagreb.

Since 2009, Almira has served as a member of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

Almira also aids young dancers through a summer school she co-founded with dance teacher Renata Skovron. Organized annually in the city of Supetar, the summer school promotes the beauty of both dance and Croatia's Brach Island.

In recognition of her outstanding cultural services in the field of tourism, Almira received the annual Town Award from the city of Split and the 25th European Award for Tourism from the European Federation Tourist Press in 2011.

Almira currently travels the world as a leading expert in the field of dance and ballet giving

masterclasses. She is also a frequent jury member at ballet and dance competitions including Young Russian Grand Prix International Ballet Competition in St. Petersburg and The International Baltic Ballet Festival in Riga.

Almira was also a jury member at the 2012 International Ballet Competition in Seoul.

From 2015., Almira joined the jury of the international *Dance Star* competition that is currently traveling the globe.