

Born in Asahikawa, Japan, to parents who owned a Kimono business, Takeshima began dancing at the age of four in Sapporo, Japan. At the age of 14 she left home to study with the San Francisco Ballet school.

Yumiko Takeshima was a Soloist with Universal Ballet (Seoul), Alberta Ballet (Calgary) and Feld Ballet NY. In 1993, she moved from New York City to join the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam where she danced as a principle dancer. There she started to develop her passion for designing dancewear and costumes. In early 2002 she launched "YUMIKO" dancewear and the YumiGirl Network.

Since 2002, Takeshima has continued to develop her made-to-order line, as well as a ready-to-wear line, of high quality, great fitting, and beautifully designed dance and fitness wear for women and men. In addition, since moving to Amsterdam, Netherlands, Takeshima has designed costumes for numerous choreographers, most notably David Dawson and William Forsythe and has been praised in the press not only as a dancer, but also for designing some of the most elegant, simple, and esthetically beautiful dance costumes in the European dance world.

Yumiko Takeshima has ended her dance carrier as a principle dancer with the Semperoper Ballett in Germany in 2014. She currently continues to devote her time to her "YUMIKO" business and her costume design projects.

Costumes designed for:

Requiem (2019) David Dawson for Dutch National Ballet

The Four seasons (2018) David Dawson for Semperoper Ballet

Anima Animus (2018) David Dawson for San Francisco Ballet

Citizen Nowhere (2017) David Dawson for Dutch National Ballet

Fifth Symphony (2017) Jorma Elo for Boston Ballet

Swan Lake (2016) David Dawson for Scottish Ballet

Empire Noir (2015) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet

Tristan + Isolde (2015) David Dawson for Semperoper Ballett

[The Human Seasons](#) (2013) David Dawson for the Royal Ballet

[Opus.11](#) (2013) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett

[5](#) (2013) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett

[Overture](#) (2013) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet

[day4](#) (2012) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet

Apollo (2012) George Balanchine for the Semperoper Ballett

Dido & Aeneas/DnA (2012) Darrel Toulon for Opera Graz

Bach, Handel, Berio Pas de Deux (2012) William Forsythe for the Semperoper Ballett

Killer Sweet (2012) Jorma Elo for the Royal Ballet of Flanders

Run For It (2012) Martin Lawrance for the Scottish Ballet

[timelapse/ \(Mnemosyne\)](#) (2011) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet

Golden Partita (2011) Jorma Elo for the Basel Ballet Switzerland

Kings 2 Ends (2011) Jorma Elo for the Scottish Ballet

[A Sweet Spell of Oblivion](#) (2010) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett (re-design)

[dancingmadlybackwards](#) (2010) David Dawson for the Norwegian National Ballet

[The Third Light](#) (2010) David Dawson for the Royal Ballet of Flanders

Red in 3 (2010) Jorma Elo for the Scottish Ballet

[Faun\(e\)](#) (2009) David Dawson for the English National Ballet

[The World According to Us](#) (2009) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett

Suit Murder (2008) Jorma Elo for the Finnish National Ballet

[Giselle](#) (2008) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett

[On the Nature of Daylight](#) (2007) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett

[A Million Kisses to my Skin](#) (2007) David Dawson for the English National Ballet (re-design)

The Second Detail (2007) William Forsythe for the Semperoper Ballett

[A Sweet Spell of Oblivion](#) (2007) David Dawson for the Royal Ballet of Flanders  
[The Disappeared](#) (2006) David Dawson for the Semperoper Ballett  
[The Gentle Chapters](#) (2006) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet  
[Reverence](#) (2005) David Dawson for the Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet  
Solitaire (2004) Annabel Lopez Ochoa for the Dutch National Ballet  
[Morning Ground](#) (2004) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet  
[00:00](#) (2004) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet  
[The Grey Area](#) (2002) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet  
[A Million Kisses to my Skin](#) (2000) David Dawson for the Dutch National Ballet

Yumiko Takeshima has danced the principal roles in all of the classical repertoire as well as the choreographies by J. Cranko, J. Neumeier, H. Lander, B. Cullberg, F. Ashton, W. Eagling, T. Tharp, R. van Dantzig, G. Balanchine, H. van Manen, C. Bruce, P. Lacotte, A. Messerer, J. Kylian, W. Forsythe, M. Graham, D. Dawson and many others. She created roles in [Giselle](#), [Psychic Whack](#), [A Million Kisses to my Skin](#), [The Grey Area](#), [00:00](#), [Morning Ground](#), [The Gentle Chapters](#), [Das Verschwundene | The Disappeared](#); [On the Nature of Daylight](#); [The World According to Us](#) ( all D. Dawson); Donna Elvira/Don Giovanni, Voice, [Derde Symfonie](#) (K. Pastor); [Frank Bridge Variations](#); [Six Piano Pieces](#) (H. van Manen); [Solitaire](#) (A. L. Ochoa); [Meditation & Variation on La Sylphide](#) (D. Byrd); [Subliminal Instant](#), [Spazio Tempo](#) (J. Godani); [Even The Angels Fall](#) (Redha); [Access all Areas](#) (Redha, A. Page); [La Fille mal Gardée](#), [Endymion Variations](#) (R. Tobias); [Spiegels Bevriezend](#) (T. Van Schayk).

Yumiko Takeshima was featured in *The Grey Area In Creation*/ D. Dawson (Documentary – 2004) The Dutch National Ballet (Amsterdam); *Kinno A-Sama, Ginno A-Sama* (Documentary-2006) Japan TV; *Giselle, fritten-film*(Germany, 2008). 100 people who changed Japan (TV Tokyo 2009).  
Designed dance wear for movie *Black Swan*-2010.