



Biography

"I believe that everyone can sing, but it takes guts. You need to dare to be yourself, to be unique, and let your voice be heard. It can be a scary thing to many of us, but especially daunting to young people. In their search for their identity and as they carefully shape their lives and personality, I believe they need the support to fearlessly share their true selves."

During her own singing career, Babette Labeij realized that it is her passion to give people that bravery to find their singing voice and champion any fears or challenges on their way to the stage. She loves using her own experience to inspire young people to celebrate their talents, their music and their lives. And Babette is certainly up for a challenge; in fact, the bigger the challenge, the bigger the reward when her student succeeds.

Babette started her career as a singer at an early age; even then she knew what courage meant, and what it was like to inspire people to be their true selves, to just go for it. She was performing the opera "La bohème" in Amsterdam at the age of 12. After high school, she attended the Dutch Conservatory while working with many top Dutch performers. Babette also performed at the Eurovision Song Festival as a back-up singer and continued to work in countless musical projects ranging from a single with The Rosenberg Trio to vocal work for Disney's "Hercules."

Babette also knows what it means to chase after dreams and aspirations. Her first dream came true when she released two successful albums. Years later, her second dream became reality when she found recognition and fame as a vocal coach, guiding many Dutch talents on their way to the top. With her Music Academy, which is currently attended by over 500 students, Babette is not just working on her own dreams but every day, she helps others pursue theirs.

To her students, Babette is more than just a champion, a coach on the sidelines. "I am that person right there with them in the ring, in the center of it, teaching them to be their own cheerleader. I'll laugh, scream and cry with them until they find their own voice to sing: this is me, here I am!"

The whole go-getter thing is in her roots. Babette is all about "doing", with a heavy emphasis on action. When we fall, we get back up. That's scary and it can be hard. With this philosophy in mind, she teaches: together you can do anything. Music has the power of connecting people and bringing us together. A main focus of Babette Labeij's Music Academy is team work. Babette: "We encourage each other and we strengthen each other. There is no weak link in my class because we lift each other up in courage and power."

Babette believes everyone can sing. Talent is subjective. It boils down to taste, trends and personality and it can even take us by surprise. "I see this every day in my work, whether at my school or at one of the popular TV shows, like Idol and The Voice of Holland, that I work for. One thing I know for certain is that the moment you have the audacity to be yourself on stage is when you can touch your audience. When that happens, you're there, opening up, sharing your story and your emotions and it becomes something truly magical."