

THEATER

Detroit Opera House announces new dance series

From the sensual pulse of the Argentine tango to the brilliant grace of the traditional grand ballet, the 2001-2002 DaimlerChrysler Dance Series at the Detroit Opera House will pay tribute to the extraordinary diversity of the art form. In a recent announcement, David Chifera, General Director of Michigan Opera Theatre and the Detroit Opera House revealed details of what promises to be one of the most diverse and exciting dance seasons to date.

The three-event subscription series features the Detroit premiere of Tango Pasion, Sept. 20-23, 2001 and the highly anticipated Detroit Opera House premiere of Dance Theatre of Harlem, Feb. 28-March 3, 2002, returning to its Midwest home with the world-acclaimed production of Le Corsaire. Once again, the dance season will present a Detroit holiday tradition with Ballet Internationale's The Nutcracker, Dec. 7-16, 2001.

DaimlerChrysler connection

The 2001-2002 DaimlerChrysler Dance Series at the Detroit Opera House is sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund. DaimlerChrysler has sponsored dance programming at the Detroit Opera House since 1998.

About the Series - The dance season begins in September with Argentine dance musical Tango Pasion, scheduled for four performances, Sept. 20-23, 2001. Tango Pasion takes place in a dance club cafe in Buenos Aires. The exotic show features non-stop music and dance. Without the benefit of dialogue, all thoughts and feelings are expressed through tango.

With the dazzling choreography of Hector Zazare, alluring costumes by Lucio Galano, and the lighting of Richard Filibrow, Tango Pasion offers two hours of virtuosity and refined sensuality where Argentina's native dance becomes a metaphor for all emotions. By using younger dancers

and integrating contemporary tango music, the energy of Tango Pasion has attracted young audiences along with traditional tango lovers.

To Harlem

Dance Theatre of Harlem, a favorite among Detroit audiences, will appear on the expansive stage of the Detroit Opera House Feb. 28-March 3, 2002. Although the Company has performed in various venues throughout the city, the 2002 appearance marks the first at the Detroit Opera House. In Detroit, the Company will perform a yet-to-be-announced mixed-repertoire program.

Beginning as "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings" (New York Times, 1971), Dance Theatre of Harlem has grown into a multicultural company with a repertoire of 125 works. In its relatively brief history, the Company continues to fulfill its mandate to make the arts widely accessible to all populations. In 1988, Dance Theatre of Harlem became the first American Ballet Company to perform in the then

Soviet Union as part of the US/USSR Cultural Exchange Initiative.

American Ballet Theatre

The 2001-2002 DaimlerChrysler Dance Series at the Detroit Opera House continues with the return of American Ballet Theatre (ABT). Celebrating five seasons of performance in its Midwest home, the Detroit Opera House, American Ballet Theatre will present the lavish grand ballet, Le Corsaire April 4-7, 2002.

Le Corsaire, described by the New York Post as a "spectacular production" "packed to the brim with fantastically good dancing, tells the story of a dashing pirate and a beautiful young harem girl and the treacherous forces that threaten to keep them apart. Throughout the ballet, audiences are transported to stunning settings, from a grand palace to an spectacular shipwreck on a deserted island.

American Ballet Theatre is recognized as one of the great dance companies in the world. Few ballet companies equal ABT

for its combination of size, scope and outreach. Recognized as a living national treasure since its founding in 1940, ABT annually tours the United States, performing for more than 600,000 people - it is the only major cultural institution to do so.

The Nutcracker

Visions of sugar plum fairies and Nutcracker princes have, for decades, been the inspiration of childhood fantasy and adulthood memories. In Detroit, The Nutcracker has become the centerpiece of holiday tradition for families throughout the region. The Detroit Opera House sustains this great tradition by presenting The Nutcracker, Dec. 7-16, 2001.

Scheduled for 11 performances only, The Nutcracker will be danced by world-acclaimed Ballet Internationale, and features The Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra playing the enchanting Tchaikovsky score.

The Ballet Internationale Nutcracker is rich in glitter,

adventure and charm, and features elaborate costumes, sets and distinctive choreography.

The Nutcracker, presented in 2 acts, is based on author E.T.A. Hoffman's story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," which tells the timeless story of the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer and his gift of the Nutcracker doll to young Clara. When the doll comes to life as the Nutcracker Prince and whisks Clara off to the Kingdom of Sweets to help him find his beloved Sugar Plum Fairy, the enchanting escapade begins.

The Ballet Internationale production of The Nutcracker features the traditional Russian choreography by Eldar Aliiev, the company's artistic director. A selection of the group's many outstanding dancers will perform The Nutcracker.

To subscribe and for more information call the Detroit Opera House Ticket Office at 313-237-1464.

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