

Modern ballet company turns Cinderella into a sad, little doll

Fantasy world: Porcelain masked dancers delight audiences in the Lyon Opera Ballet production of "Cinderella."



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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A porcelain-masked dancer twirls around the stage then suddenly drops to the ground as if wounded. Yorgue Loukis admits *Cendrillon* (Cinderella) isn't a typical rehash of the classical ballet set to the music of Prokofiev. Provocative, maybe even bizarre, might spring to the minds of audiences as they watch the Lyon Opera Ballet production at the Power Center for the Performing Arts Friday-Sunday, April 19-21.

Loukis, artistic director of France's contemporary ballet company, calls it "sad." Choreographed by Maguy Marin, the fairy tale becomes a magical world where childhood jealousy and cruelty play leading roles.

Cendrillon
What? Lyon Opera Ballet presents a magical version of the classic Cinderella tale.
When 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 19-20, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 21.
Where? Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor.
Tickets: \$18-\$36. Call (734) 764-2538.

Cinderella looks like a Kewpie doll from the outside but inside she's unhappy and deeply disturbed. The ill-treatment she receives from a mean stepmother and two stepisters leads her to befriend a strange being surrounded by even stranger animals.

"It's not just a different

approach to a classical work but a contemporary work that we wanted to do through puppets," said Loukis during a telephone interview from a hotel in Canada. The company is on a seven-week tour of 14 cities. "On stage is a three-story doll house from the 19th century and the dancers inhabiting it become the story of our childhood."

"It's one of my favorites, a completely coherent styled work with costumes that make dancers look like dolls. Extremely choreographed, the dancers learned to move like dolls. They make you feel that these masks are alive. It works because it has tenderness, cruelty and humanity."

Children especially like the Lyon Opera Ballet's version of

Cinderella because it takes them to a world of make believe. When the production first debuted in New York's City Center in 1987, it was so well received by audiences that the company returned to New York that spring for two weeks. Since then Lyon Opera Ballet has made four cross-country tours of the U.S., most recently in 1998 when they performed *Carmen* as part of the University Musical Society series in Ann Arbor.

UMS is bringing the company back for three performances of *Cendrillon*.

"It works on different levels," said Loukis. "For children—they follow surprised. They believe. They're surprised when the dancers take off their masks. It's part of their world."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas	Star John R. L.L. Miles	Star John R. L.L. Miles	Star John R. L.L. Miles	Star John R. L.L. Miles	Star John R. L.L. Miles
Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass	Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass	Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass	Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass	Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass	Showtimes: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 *Late Show Fri. & Sat. & Sun. *No Denotes No Pass
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The wait is over: Kevin Peyok (left to right), Dominic Romano, Jim Edmunds and Dean Fertita are Bobbed recording artists The Waxwings. Their new album is due out in June, but the celebration starts Friday.

The Waxwings return with *Shadows*

When garage rock duo The White Stripes earned the formidable title of "Best Live Band in the World" (Rolling Stone) and recently sold out four phenomenal nights at New York's Bowery Ballroom, it became obvious that Detroit rock was finally getting the attention it deserves.

And though Detroit's Waxwings lean closer to the dreamy pop side of the spectrum, one can't help but hope some of that well-deserved national focus

might soon swing their way. The band—featuring Dean Fertita, Kevin Peyok, Dominic Romano and James Edmunds—has spent the year working hard on a follow-up to its 2000 debut on Bobbed Records, *Low to the Ground*.

Finally complete, The Waxwings celebrate with four CD release parties for *Shadows of the Waxwings*.

The first will be 9 p.m. Friday, April 19 at Detroit's Magic Stick. The Waxwings will be backed

solidly by Outrageous Cherry and Pax/Cat. The band will also host CD release parties in Minnesota, because the album was recorded there; in Chicago, because the band's label is based in Illinois; and in Lawrence, Kansas because fans there have truly embraced them.

Cover for Friday's show is \$10. For more information, call (313) 833-9700.

—By S. A. Casola

Groups sponsor pet adoption day at Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo is gearing up for annual spring and summer events — Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo and Sunset at the Zoo.

The Michigan Humane Society will team with the Detroit Zoo on May 4-5 for its annual Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo, animal adoption program.

The Michigan Humane Society and 26 other humane organizations, rescue groups and animal control agencies, will bring dogs, cats, kittens, puppies, rabbits, Guinea pigs and other small animals to the zoo from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. They'll also have rescue ponies on hand.

Visitors will get a chance to meet the animals and adopt them. Through the event's last year, 789 animals found new homes.

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo is held outdoors under huge tent. There is no admission charge for the event and for parking. For more information call the Michigan Humane Society at (313) 872-3400.

Tickets for Polar Blast: Sunset at the Zoo are available now for the summer fund-raiser. They range from \$75-\$500 per person.

General Motors presents the party, which is scheduled rain or



Zoo day: Visitors check out a pony at the Michigan Humane Society's annual "Meet Your Friend at the Zoo Day," while other animals such as this cat (below) will be available for adoption.

shine from 7-11 p.m. Friday, June 21 at the zoo. Proceeds from the annual Detroit Zoological Society fund-raiser will benefit education and conservation programs related to the zoo's Arctic Ring of Life polar bear exhibit.

Ticket-holders will sample foods from fine restaurants, including P.F. Chang's, Big Rock Chop House, Mac and Rays, the Rattlesnake Club and the Whitney, during a strolling supper. They'll also enjoy live entertainment, dancing and a chance to visit zoo attractions in the evening.

Activities also include a raffle of such items as a Hummer H2, donated by Jennifer and David Fischer of The Suburban Collection; a Kenyan safari for two from Park East Tours; and an 18-karat gold polar bear pin from Jules R. Schubert Jewellers. Raffle tickets are \$100.

Reserve tickets for the Polar Blast: Sunset at the Zoo by calling (248) 541-6767. The zoo is located at Woodward and the I-999 expressway; service drive, in Royal Oak.



Zoo day: Visitors check out a pony at the Michigan Humane Society's annual "Meet Your Friend at the Zoo Day," while other animals such as this cat (below) will be available for adoption.