Modern ballet company turns Cinderella into a sad, little doll

Fantasy world: Porcelain masked dancers delight audiences in the Lyon Opera Ballet produc-tion of "Cin-derella."



A porcelain-masked dancer twirls around the stage then A porcelain-masked dancer twirls around the stage then suddenly drops to the ground as if wounded. Yorgus Loukis admits Cendrillon (Cinderella) isn't a typical rehash of the classical ballet set to the music of Prokefiev. Provecative, 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.' Chorographed by Maguy Marin, the fairy tale becomes a magical world where childhoad jealousy and cruelty play leading roles.

What: Lyon Opera Ballet presents a magical version of the classic Cinderells 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 dis-turbed. The ill-treatment she receives from a mean stepmother and two stepsisters leads her to befriend a strange being surrounded by even stranger ani-

"It's not just a different

approach to a classical work but approach to a cassical work that we wanted to do through puppets," said Loukis during a telephone interview from a hotel in Cana-da. The company is on a seven-week tour of 14-cities. "On stage

week tour of 14-cities. "On stage is a three-story doll house from the 19th century and the daßneers 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 ly 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 1999 when they performed Carmen as part of the University Musical Society series in Ann Arbor.

LMS is bringing the company back for three performances of Cendrillon.

oack 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."

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The walt is over: Kevin Peyok (left to right), Dominic Romano, Jim Edmunds and Dean Fertita are Bobsled 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" (Moje Magazine) and recently sold out four
phenomenal nights at New
York's Bowery Ballroom, it
became obvious that Detroit rock
was finally getting the attention

Was finally getting the attention

was many 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

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 Pas/Cal.

The band will also host CD The band will also nost 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.

Groups sponsor pet adoption day at Detroit Zoo

Croups sponsor

The Detroit Zoo is gearing up for annual spring and aummer events
— Meet Your Best Friend 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 degs, cats, kittens, puppies, rabbits, Guinea pigs and other small animals to the zoo from 10 a.m.-5 m. both days. They'll also have rescued ponies on hand.

Visitors will get a chance to meet the animals and adopt them. Through the event 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 car available now for the summer fund-raiser. They range from \$78-\$500 per person.

General Motors presents the party, which is scheduled rain or

自見器

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
Ticket-holders will sample foods
P.F. Changs, Big Rock Chop House,
Mac and Rays, the Rattlesnake
Glub and the Whitney, during a
strolling supper. They'll also cnjoy
live entertainment, dancing and a
chance to visit zoo attractions in

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. Schubott Jewellers. Rafile tickets are \$100.

Roserve tickets for the Polar Bash: Sunset at the Zoo by calling (248) 541-575. The zoo is located at Woodward and the I.698 expressway, service drive, in Royal Oak.