

Dance

Superb night

On Saturday evening, the Strovolos Municipal Theatre was full of excitement for the second performance of Dancecyprus' production *Gala*.

It was a selection of twelve works, chosen by Carolina Constantinou, the company's new Artistic Director, who has returned to Cyprus after ten years abroad dancing and choreographing with the world's top theatres.

The evening began with *Liebestraum* set to the music of the same title, by Liszt. The dancers Laura Morera and Ricardo Cervera Brown, both with the Royal Ballet moved beautifully to Liam Scarlett's choreography. It was elegant, stirring and full of imagination – a perfect setting and beginning for what was to follow the remainder of the evening. The more 'classical' vein continued with an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* with William Moore and *Andante Affettuoso* to music by Morton Feldman. Dancers Ana Maria Lopez and Francisco Lorenzo hail from Spain's Compania Nacional de Danza. The choreography, also of Lorenzo's was very clever – using the legato passages for more fluid lines, as opposed to the more abrupt pizzicato.

One must mention the choice of music throughout this event. It was carefully balanced, accessible and had a nice flow of contrasts. Most importantly, meticulous attention was paid to the sound level – there is nothing more awful than music blaring, however nice or good. This was a perfect balance.

One of the highlights of the first half for me was *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* to music of Chavela Vargas and danced by Soraya Bruno and Martin Buczko, both soloists from the Staatsoper, Berlin. What a magnificent performance. The passion and expression

of the dancers to the soulful Spanish song permeated through the entire narrative. The space was beautifully shaped and there was an energy in the ever changing configurations which had exquisite lines. The tension and release of the choreography to the words of the song 'Why do I love you?' was dramatic, with the dancers showing great vulnerability and yet fervour when finally in each others arms. A perfect match. Passion permeated the second half too. In *Cor Perdut*, the Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato illustrates the bittersweet roles of lovers who are drawn to one another, linger and yet cannot stay. Dancers Ana Maria Lopez and Francisco Lorenzo were evocative and literally soared. The music is set to a Turkish song arranged by the Armenian composer Berberian and sung in Catalan by Majorcan Maris del Mar Bonet, so is quite 'Mediterranean'. The choreography was a birthday gift for Bonet from Duato.

Carolina Constantinou and Martin Buczko teamed for the final ballet of the evening – *Fragile* set to music by Gagin Bryars with choreography and lighting by Israeli Itzik Galili. Created in 1997, *Fragile* is an ode to the dancer with a duet exploring strengths and fears. Constantinou expressed her strength through her vulnerability with her body full of energy and drama. Her partner, Buczko's articulation was clear and full of strength communicating a range of emotions, purposefully drawing us in.

The evening was full of ballets differing in style and content, but there was one factor which permeated throughout – the high standard of dance and consummate professionalism making the evening a joyous one. We look forward to Dancecyprus' next production in November, *Triptych*.

By Saskia Constantinou

CYPRUS MAIL

Τρίτη, 15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2009, σ. 35

