

Dance: a lesson in social inclusion

DANCE HAS taken Cyprus by storm, which is good news for lovers of the genre. Following the staging of the NoBody Dance and Movement Festival and the Dance Waves Festival this past month, residents and visitors alike just can't seem to get enough of dance. A fascinating rise in this type of entertainment in all its forms is being embraced and reinvented, as demonstrated by the numerous productions taking place throughout the year, ranging from tango to contemporary dance.

This December a real treat is in store for dance fans as ballet takes centre stage with its measured expressions of fluid and beautiful motion. Coming up this week, the ballet company Dancecyprus presents three celebratory evenings, committed to providing Cypriot audiences and dancers with neoclassical dance. Ballet has changed in a number of ways over the course of its history, with one school of thought giving way to another; yet, usually the basic ideas remain unchanged. Neoclassical ballet is a particular style

of dance that puts more focus on the structure of movement, allowing the dancers to use more elaborate and complicated expressions.

Dancecyprus is steadily creating a repertoire of original ballet productions to entertain and inspire audiences within this country and beyond. During the past two years the local dance company has won plaudits and enthusiastic

fans with its dynamic performances across the island.

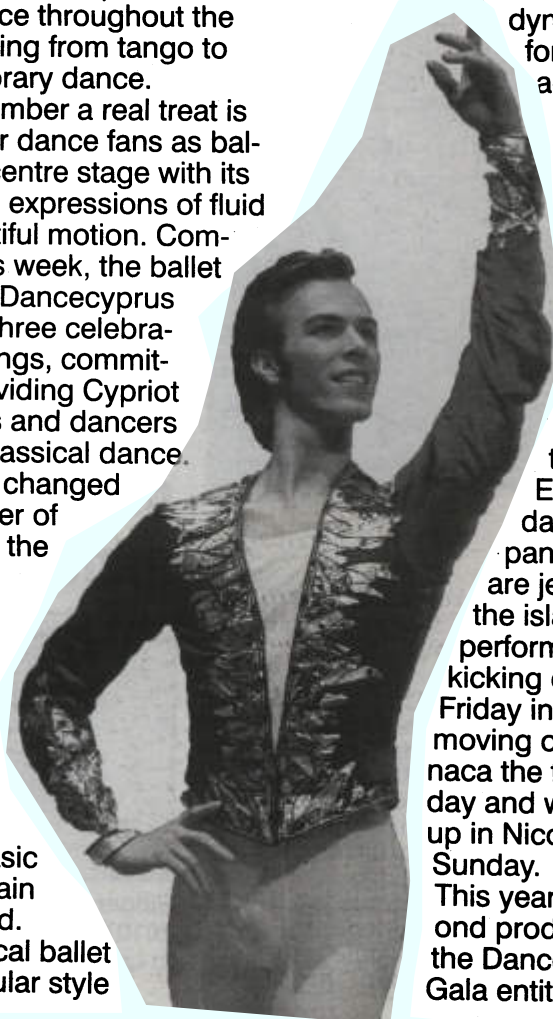
The DanceCyprus Gala involves dancers and choreographers from some of the finest European dance companies, who are jetting into the island for performances kicking off on Friday in Limassol, moving on to Larnaca the following day and wrapping up in Nicosia on Sunday.

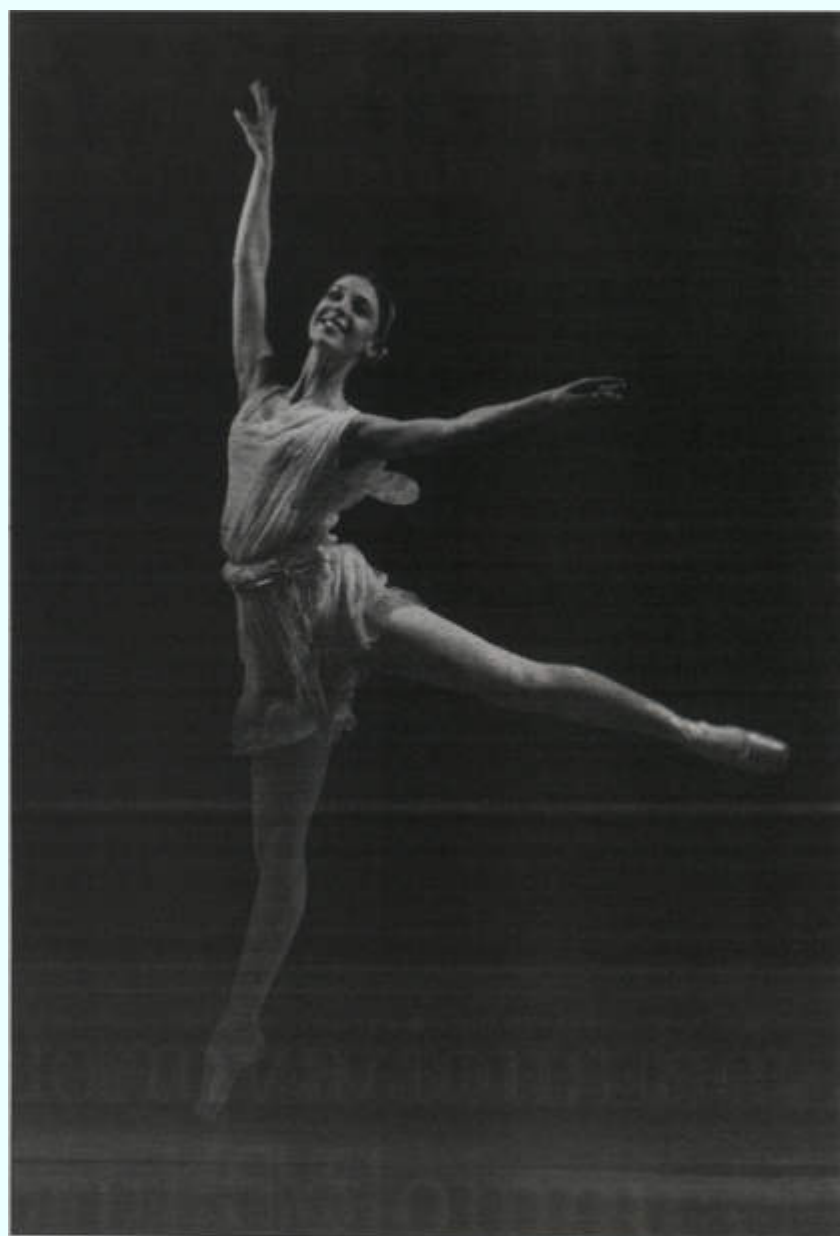
This year the second production of the DanceCyprus Gala entitled Dance

for a Better Life, takes place in collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Cyprus within the framework of 2010 European Year Against Poverty and Social Exclusion. With this production DanceCyprus is taking a big step forward from last year's very successful Gala.

Take note as this year DanceCyprus has attracted a wealth of internationally acclaimed dancers such as Staatballett Berlin, Victor Ullate Ballet (Spain), Centre Choreographique National de Nantes (CCNN - France). Among them Cypriot professional dancers who have excelled abroad, Natalia Krekou (Ballett St Pölten Austria and Moscow City Ballet), Dafni Mouyiassi (Formerly Bejart Ballet Lausanne), Anastasia Paschali (Formerly Royal Danish Ballet), Loizos Constantinou (Formerly Athens National Opera).

The programme, which has been meticulously selected by artistic director Carolina Constantinou, a celebrated Cypriot choreographer, demonstrates a fascinating variety of choreographic styles by leading choreographers. This year Dancecyprus has the honour of welcoming Andrei Batalov, First soloist of the Mariinsky Ballet (Kirov). Other dancers include: Gianluca Battaglia (Soloist at Victor Ullate Ballet - Spain), Vincent Blanc and Benjamin





Lamarche (Soloists from Centre Choreographique National de Nantes (CCNN – France), Rainer Krenstetter (Soloist at Staatsballett Berlin) and Francois Mauduit (Compagnie Choreographique Francois Mauduit).

The attendance of well-known artists from various countries shows the dedication to the cause of fighting social exclusion, which follows the European Union's nomination of 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. You can expect to see a repertoire that consists of choreographies from Petipa's *Le Corsaire* and

Don Quixote, as well as neo-classical and contemporary pieces by Bejart, Brumachon, Dimitriadou Lindahl, Pandis, Mauduit and Ullate.

Second Dance Cyprus Gala

Annual gala dance event that presents well-known dancers from abroad and Cyprus. 8.30pm. €20/15. 70-009303/99-920264 – www.dancecyprus.org
December 10: Rialto Theatre, Limassol. Tel: 77-777745
December 11: Larnaca Municipal Theatre.
December 12: Pallas Municipal Theatre, Nicosia.

By Ledha Socratous

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