

Dancecyprus premieres to high acclaim

BY BEVERLY DAVIES
PHOTOS BY PETER FIGETAKIS

DANCECYPRUS burst into life last month with vibrant energy and polished performances. The show premiered the first two ballets created especially for the new Cypriot company – “A Pair of Wings Please?”, choreographed by Cypriot dancer Carolina Constantinou and “Sirens” by acclaimed Italian choreographer Antonio Colandrea, who is also the Artistic Director of Dancecyprus. Both are modern, relevant works of art which explore the roles of women in a changing world.

Two months of rehearsals in the unique setting of Lofou village paid off with stunning performances from the company of young, exceptional dancers.

Constantinou's “A Pair of Wings Please?” has the theme of unwritten social laws and personal freedom. This short work set the tone of the evening with its powerful professionalism. The dancers captured the mood of suspicion and even menace, stepping in and out of ever-moving spotlights.

In contrast, the longer ballet “Sirens” begins quietly with the sound of the sea and reveals a scene of fishermen and the enigmatic sirens who hold such allure for the men. We see a series of beautifully-constructed dances illustrating the multi-faceted personality of the Mediterranean woman. Colandrea presents this woman to us with all her paradoxes – sweet yet bitter, pragmatic yet frivolous, religious yet sometimes blasphemous...

Both ballets were enthusiastically

received by audiences in Nicosia and Limassol.

Dancecyprus is now preparing the new programmes that will be performed in 2007.

If you have not seen the “Sirens” yet, a film of the ballet will be screened soon at various venues.

Dancecyprus has already organised several events to involve the local community in its work.

At ‘Village Day’, 14 young people from the village youth clubs of Lania, Dhoros and Monagri sat in on a rehearsal introduced by Carolina Constantinou.

A competition gave them the chance to win a pair of complimentary tickets for the show. The winner, Nicoletta Nicolaou from Dhoros, was thrilled to see a complete, live ballet performance, a totally new experience for her. In fact, for all the young participants, it was “something special to see dancers not much older than themselves working with such dedication and professionalism”, as a youth club organiser confirmed.

Another pre-performance event, arranged under the auspices of the British Council, allowed talented local dance students to join the company in Lofou. They watched a class and a rehearsal, as well as receiving a Masterclass from Artistic Director Antonio Colandrea.

Three of the students, Darcia Economidou, Rachael Peters and Emily Loumba, were chosen to become the company's first Junior Associates. They now will be able to work with the professional dancers in certain classes and performances.

The company has established a membership scheme called ‘Friends of Dancecyprus’. This is open to all who wish to become more closely involved in the life of the ballet company.

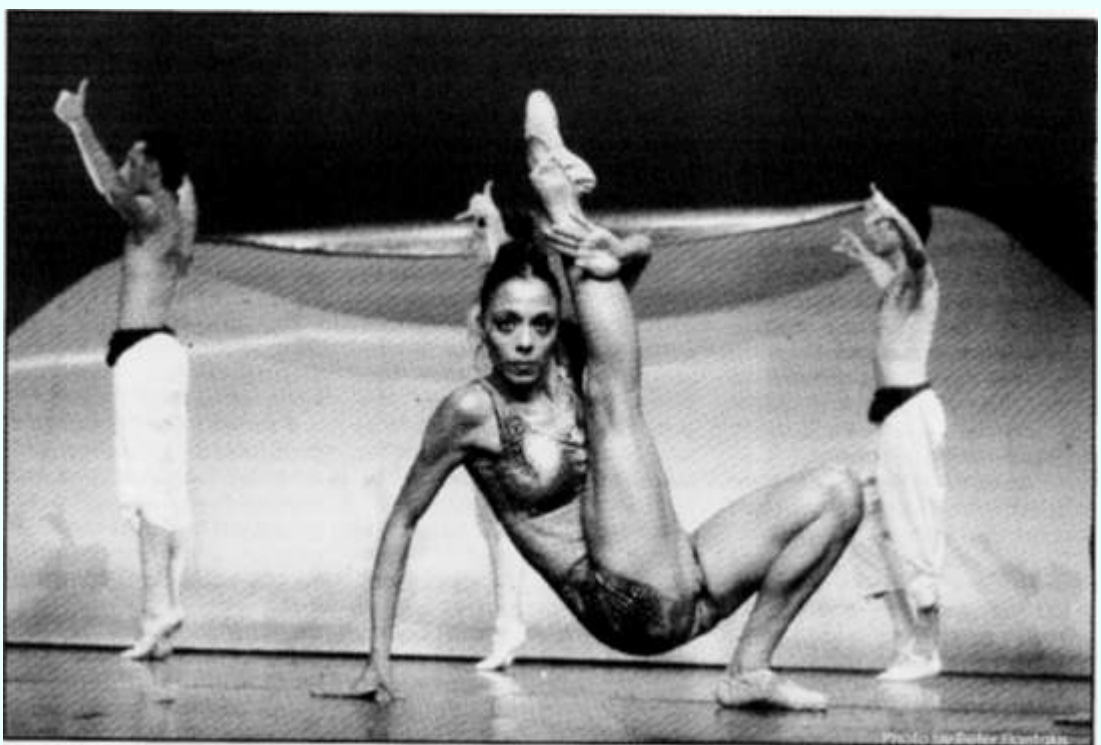
A ‘Friends Morning’ enabled members to come to Lofou studios, meet the dancers and watch them at work. The experience was fascinating and eye-opening. “It was surprising how difficult, tough and tiring a classical ballet class is”, commented one of the attendees.

For more information on Dancecyprus and its Friends scheme, please visit the website www.dancecyprus.org.



STUNNING PERFORMANCE: Simona Iavazzo - “A Pair of Wings Please?” Choreography Carolina Constantinou.





SIRENS: Carolina Constantinou, Bledi Bejleri, Grazia Striano, Davide Valrosso - "Sirens". Choreography Antonio Colandrea.

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