



Laguna Journal with global reach and local knowledge serving Laguna Beach, and all of south Orange County. The Laguna Journal is the oldest continuously published on line newspaper in America and is the oldest locally owned independent news gathering organization. Increasingly read throughout the area by people seeking ultimate truth and wisdom through an on line alternative news source.

Orange County Celebrates Monaco Takes US with Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo Performance of 'Cinderella' on Segerstrom Center Stage



By Lydia E. Ringwald

MonacoTakesUS, an international festival that includes both the Segerstrom Center and Joyce Theater in New York, commences with a performance of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo's 'Cinderella' on the Segerstrom stage February 9-12.

The Monte-Carlo ballet company is heir to the modern ballet of innovative impresario Serge Diaghilev, a Russian exile whose Ballet Russe fused the talent of ballet artists the magnitude Vaslav Nijinsky, with stellar choreographers Leonid Massine, Michel Fokine, joined with artistic talent the magnitude of Pablo Picasso, Leon Bakst, Nicolas Roerich, with the music of Stravinsky to generate some of the most avant-garde ballet masterpieces of the modern world.

The landmark theater in Monte Carlo, was not only a showplace to present avant-garde Ballet Russe performances, but also a working theater where ballet masterpieces the magnitude of 'L'Après-Midi d'un Faun' 'The Firebird' and 'Patrushka' were created.

Here Picasso painted sets and designed costumes for 'The Three Cornered Hat,' and Nicolas Roerich designed sets and costumes for startlingly innovative 'Rites of Springs,' set to the music composer Leon Stravinsky. Poet, dramatist, filmmaker Jean Cocteau created images for the posters and program covers for the Ballet Russe shows in Diaghilev's artistic collaboration that brought the greatest talent of the era together.

The conjunction of stellar talent surrounding the Ballet Russe created a constellation light that has illuminated the path of dance performance into the future.

The modern masterpieces of the Ballet Russe, generated from the theater in Monte Carlo, fused by the genius of Diaghilev, were often financed by Coco Chanel, who often stayed at the Hotel de Paris, adjacent to the theater and wrote the 'cheques' to cover costs for Diaghilev's extravagant ballet productions. And in the end, it was Coco Chanel who financed Diaghilev's funeral, arranging a fleet of gondolas laden with flowers and mourning party guests to carry the Diaghilev's bier for burial in Venice.

This rich texture of artists and artistry forms the fabric of our culture and civilization.

Princess Caroline, following the inspiration of her famous mother, Princess Grace, American film star Grace Kelly, remained dedicated to sponsoring and promoting the history of 'modernity' cultivated by the Ballet Russe that made the ballet arts in the principality Monaco world famous.

In 1993, Princess Caroline appointed choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot, trained in Cannes by Balanchine star Rosella Hightower, as Artistic Director of Les Ballet de Monte Carlo to continue the tradition of modernity by cultivating new choreographies for the theater company.

Maillot's 'Bêtes Noires, Dov'e la Luna, Le Songe, Minatures and Altro Canto are along with 'Cinderella' are included in the avant-garde productions that continue to weave an unique innovative contemporary texture into ever evolving ballet artistry.

Les Ballets de Monte Carlo on the MonacoTakesUS tour of the scintillating avant-garde production of 'Cinderella' weaves the US and OC into this rich historical and cultural texture.

The performance of Les Ballet de Monte Carlo at Segerstrom Center in Orange County is the only appearance on the West Coast of this historically significant company.

A 'Fairytale Weekend' of parties and social events sponsored by MonacoTakesUS celebrates the cultural fusion of Monaco with Segerstrom Center audiences.

The 'Glass Slipper Soiree' (\$300) includes the performance and Cast After Party.

An 'After the Ball Party' (\$500) includes tickets to the performance along with 'Magic of the Arts' dinner and Cast After-Party.

The entire 'Fairytale Weekend' (\$750) includes the Saturday night performance, dinner and After-Party as well as the Farewell Brunch on Sunday. To register to receive an invitation, call (800) 753-9696 or email info@visitmonaco.com

Proceeds from the events benefit Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and the Princess Grace Foundation-USA.

West Coast Balletomanes must not miss this 'Fairy Godmother' invitation to attend 'Cinderella' at Segerstrom Center February 9-12.

For further information and tickets to the performances starting at \$13.60, please call Segerstrom Center at (714) 556-2787 or visit www.SCFTA.org.