



LUXE IMMO N°21

LUXE IMMO

LUXURY REAL ESTATE & CONTEMPORARY ART



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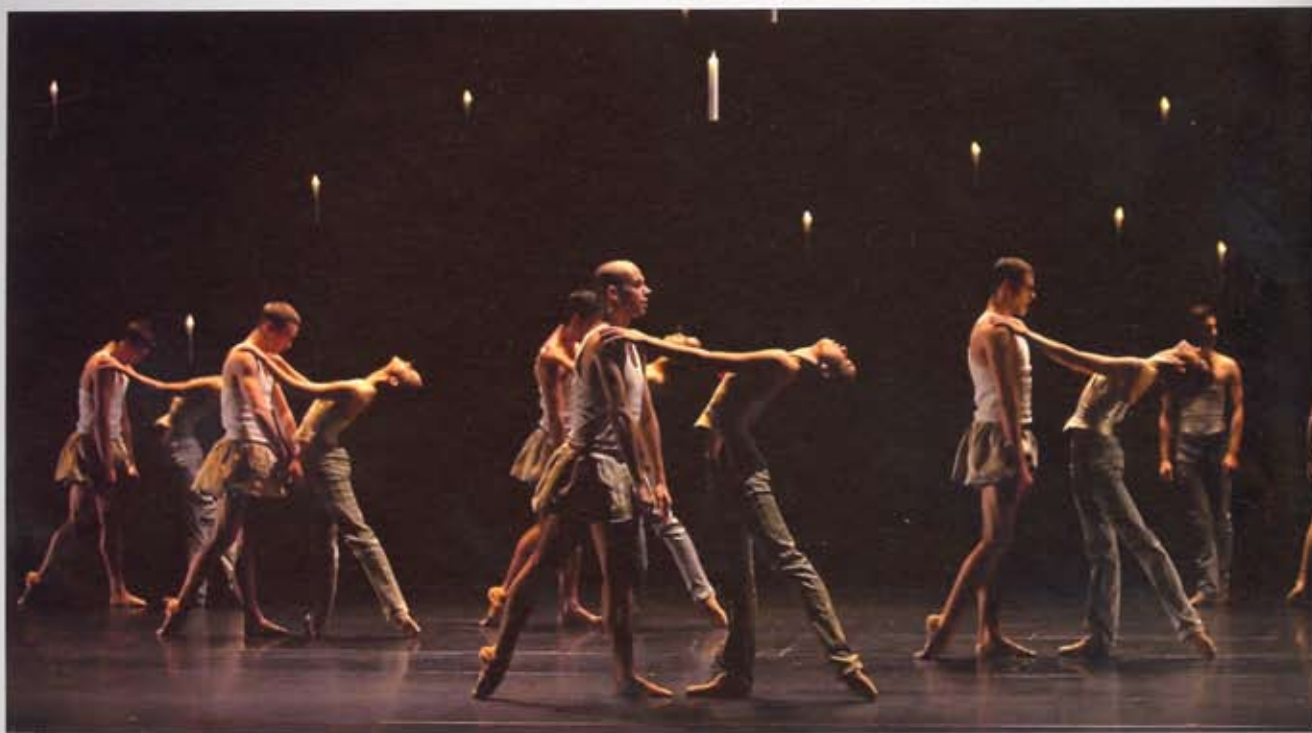
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FROM CALIFORNIA TO NEW YORK: LES BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO LEADS THE DANCE



© Marie-Laure BRIANE, *Altro Canto 1*

In February, "Monaco Takes US" invited art lovers to discover the Principality of Monaco's cultural heritage. As les Ballets de Monte-Carlo company were touring in the United States, the Monaco Consulate, Monaco Government Tourist Office in New York and the Princess Grace Foundation USA organised a series of exclusive events in California and New York to highlight some of the Principality's cultural treasures.

Under the direction of choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot, les Ballets de Monte-Carlo had not performed in the US since 2008. It was an opportunity to return in spectacular style with a tour in California and New York. From 9 to 12 February Jean-Christophe Maillot's dancers took to the stage at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts at Costa Mesa in California to perform their three-act *Cendrillon* (Cinderella) ballet. It's a joyous, lively and very poetic piece which combines a palette of colours with Serge Prokofiev's musical score. Serious and sassy, it glides smoothly over this wonderful fairytale with a critical perception of the characters and situations.

At the same time, an exhibition entitled "Monaco: a Dream Come True" was being held at the South Coast Plaza. The public were able to find out more about les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, the Principality's cultural heritage and Princess Grace's artistic legacy through photos, videos and costumes. Visitors were also able to taste Monegasque specialties in several of the local restaurants and win a trip to Monaco.

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo then headed for the East Coast to the Joyce Theater in New York. From 15 to 19 February, Jean-Christophe Maillot staged two fabulous ballets. The first was *Altro Canto*, where

the visual resonance is all. The kinetic power of the Monteverdi score offers an open space for the senses, contrasts and inflections to the extent that the choreography becomes a science of feelings, as a place of movement and circulation. The second was *Opus 40* where Jean-Christophe Maillot develops a parallel non-figurative discourse, in a similar vein to ballets such as *Dov'è la Luna* and *Vers un Pays Sage*. Without a narrative framework, the dance follows the pleasure theme running through it like a thread. It invites us to turn back the clock to return to the imagination of our childhood. The throaty yet familiar voice of Meredith Monk accompanies this intimate odyssey, giving emphasis to the dancers' steps as they evoke memories from our youth: the cries of birds, the smell of coffee, first love...

This time the Forbes Galleries in New York put on the "A Legacy of Grace" exhibition (11 February to 31 March 2012) featuring a series of portraits of les Ballets de Monte-Carlo by the famous photojournalist Marie-Laure de Decker, and shots by an artist originally from Monaco, Silas Shabelewska. The exhibition also includes the ballet company's costumes, videos and a section retracing the history of the Princess Grace Foundation USA since it was set up 30 years ago.

After a tour in Asia, Hong Kong and Tokyo in early March, les Ballets de Monte-Carlo returns to the Grimaldi Forum's stage in Monaco from 19 to 22 April 2012.

For information on the future dates for les Ballets de Monte-Carlo contact: +377 99 99 30 00 or www.balletsdemontecarlo.com.



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