

Poorhouse

INTERNATIONAL

JEROME
ROBBINS

A Celebration

from the
intriguingly
dark to the
laugh-out-loud
funny

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2009



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imagine a better
sung Hansel
und Gretel."*



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**HANSEL
AND GRETEL**

plan now for Christmas 2009



JEROME ROBBINS - A Celebration

September 2008 the Ballet of the Opéra national de Paris presented **Jerome Robbins – A Celebration**. The program is a tribute to the world famous choreographer whose genius stretched across decades and art forms, on the tenth anniversary of his death.

Jerome Robbins is perhaps best known for his choreography and co-direction of the massively influential film *West Side Story* and Broadway hit *Fiddler on the Roof*. But Robbins was also an enormously successful choreographer for theatre and ballet during his lifetime, and his works continue to be performed around the world ten years after his death.

This program salutes Robbins by presenting very different sides to his imagination, ranging from the intriguingly dark to the laugh-out-loud funny.

IN G MAJOR

Music: *Piano Concerto in G Major*

by Maurice Ravel

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Running Time: 23'

The Dancers: Marie-Agnès Gillot and Florent Magnenet as well as the Corps de ballet of Opéra national de Paris

Ravel composed the *Concerto in G Major* after a trip to the United States. It has been seen as a reflection on Gershwin and American musical comedy. Ravel described the work as "... written in very much the same spirit as those of Mozart and Saint-Saëns," and that "it uses certain effects borrowed from jazz, but only in moderation." (Arbie Orenstein, *Ravel: Man and Musician*.) When the Paris Opera Ballet staged *In G Major*, under the name *En Sol*, it commissioned scenery and costumes by Erté, which were borrowed from New York City Ballet.

THE CONCERT

Music: *Polonaise in A Major* (op. 40, no. 1),

Berceuse (op. 57),

Prelude (op. 28, no. 18),

Prelude (op. 28, no. 16),

Waltz in E-Minor (posthumous, op. 15),

Prelude (op. 28, no. 7),

Mazurka in G Major (posthumous),

Prelude (op. 28, no. 4) and

Ballade (op. 47, no. 3) by Frédéric Chopin

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Running Time: 26'

The Dancers: Vessela Pelovska, Stéphane Phavorin, Dorothée Gilbert, Alessio Carbone, Emmanuel Thibault and the Corps de ballet of Opéra national de Paris

The Concert is rightly regarded as one of the funniest works in ballet and highlights Robbins' reputation as a master of comic dance. Subtitled *The Perils of Everybody* this comedy of errors, in a series of vignettes set to several of Chopin's piano miniatures, illustrates what happens when people let their thoughts wander at a concert. Chains of corps de ballet dances fall out of time and become hilariously unstuck, a lady with an enormous hat blocks everyone's view, and a mix-up with tickets sees the whole theatre playing musical chairs.

"This is humour - and dance - at its best. Hugely entertaining and hugely clever."

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"The Concert appears to make jokes about Chopin's music but its true subjects are human dreams and yearnings. The comedy of errors that can be anyone's life finds its apt metaphor in the side-splitting segment known as the Mistake Waltz. It is also a ballet joke, in which one or more dancers in an ensemble are always behind or ahead of the others, usually facing the wrong direction."

NEW YORK TIMES

IN THE NIGHT

Music: *Nocturne* (op. 27, no. 1, *Nocturne* (op. 55,

nos. 1 & 2) and *Nocturne* (op. 9, no. 2)

by Frédéric Chopin

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Running Time: 21'

Soloists: Agnès Letestu & Stéphane Bullion, Clairemarie Osta & Benjamin Pech, Delphine Moussin & Ricolos Le Riche

The wonderfully romantic three-part ballet which traces feelings of love through the stages of tenderness, complicity and passion to the music of Chopin nocturnes. This is performed by three couples.

TRIADÉ - world première

Music: Nico Muhly

Choreography: Benjamin Millepied

Running Time: 20'

Soloists: Marie-Agnès Gillot, Laëtitia Pujol, Audric Bezar, Marc Moreau

Benjamin Millepied completed his studies at the American Ballet School, joined the NYCB in 1995 and is currently a principle dancer of the company. In 2001 he began to choreograph successfully for the NYCB, the ABT, the Geneva Ballet and a solo for Baryshnikov. He is now artistic director of the Morris Dance Centre and choreographer in residence for the Baryshnikov Arts Centre. Having worked with Robbins from the age of 16, he was a brilliant choice to pay homage to the master. *Triade* could be seen as variations on *Fancy Free* and like with Robbins serves as a pre-text to visualise human relations and feelings between four dancers.



Musical Direction: Koen Kessels

Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris

Cast: Les Étoiles, les Premiers Danseurs and le Corps de Ballet de l'Opéra national de Paris

directed by Vincent Bataillon
produced by François Duplat (Bel Air Media) and Antoine Perset (Telmondis) running time: around 90' all together. Shot on High Definition TV with 5.1 Surround Sound

Plan NOW for Christmas 2009



HANSEL AND GRETEL

Opera in three acts by
Engelbert Humperdinck

Is that the wind whispering or a wicked witch planning to fatten you up and eat you? Find out with Hansel and Gretel in this funny-scary-touching opera – perfect family fare from The Royal Opera for everyone at holiday time.

In this famous fairytale, two children become lost in a forest and are captured by a witch whose gingerbread house proves too much of a temptation. In an explosive climax the defeated witch gets a taste of her own culinary methods, and there is a rousing happy ending as parents and children are happily and safely reunited.

This brand new production by regular favourites Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser has their characteristic wit, a dash of deliciously black comedy. There is also visual and musical beauty from the Sandman, Dew Fairy and a host of protective angels to brighten anything lurking in the darker corners. With Humperdinck's tuneful score this is as musically memorable and visually delightful as opera gets.

The cast could not be more attractive and Anja Silja is the perfect Witch.

Hansel and Gretel was premiered in 1893 with Richard Strauss conducting and made its way very quickly to London, New York and the heart of children all over the world.

Hansel and Gretel was by the way also the first opera ever to be broadcast in its entirety in Europe when performed at Covent Garden by the B. M. O. C. in January 1923.

"The prize for stamping personality on a part goes to Thomas Allen, unimpeachable as the father Peter, even when staggering back home with a supermarket plastic bag and instant coffee."

THE TIMES

HANSEL & GRETEL

Directors **Moshe Leiser**
and **Patrice Caurier**
Sets **Christian Fenouillat**
Costumes **Agostino Cavalca**
Lighting **Christophe Forey**
Conductor **Colin Davis**

The Royal Opera Chorus
The Orchestra of the
Royal Opera House
Concert Master **Peter Manning**

Hansel **Angelika Kirchschrager**
Gretel **Diana Damrau**
Gertrud **Elizabeth Connell**
Peter **Thomas Allen**
Witch **Anja Silja**
Sandman **Pumeza Matshikiza**
Dew Fairy **Anita Watson**

Running Time: 120'
Acts 1 & 2 - 70'; Act 3 - 45'



directed by Sue Judd co-produced
by Opus Arte/Royal Opera House in
association with NHK Japan and BBC
Television running time: 120'; Acts 1
& 2 - 70'; Act 3 - 45'. Recorded in
High Definition with 5.1 Surround
Sound

"It's hard to imagine a better sung Hansel and Gretel. Damrau's meticulous word-painting and delicate phrasing contrast beautifully with Kirchschrager's throaty exuberance ... Connell and Allen are superb ... In the pit Sir Colin Davis admires each melody and harmonic progression at his leisure, adding butter and sugar to an already super-sweet score."

THE OBSERVER

"Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier in their new production strike what seems an ideal balance between the saccharine elements of the story and score and the disturbing social and psychological undercurrents."

EVENING STANDARD

The performance's chief glory was Sir Colin Davis conducting – sometimes dreamily slow, but unfailingly beautiful."

THE TELEGRAPH



CONGRATULATIONS!

British Composer Awards 2008 in the category 'Stage Works' to Jonathan Dove for *THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO*.

The winners of the 2008 British Composer Awards were announced on Tuesday 2 December 2008 in a ceremony hosted by the British Academy of Composers & Songwriters at the Law Society, London.

Now in its sixth year, the Awards are sponsored annually by the Performing Right Society (PRS), and are run in association with BBC Radio 3. This year the key-note comments at the Awards were given by well-known composer/producer Nitin Sawhney who also presented the winners with their awards.

Sarah Rodgers, Concert Chair of the British Academy of Composers & Songwriters, comments:

"Once again, the British Composer Awards have reviewed a great swathe of new contemporary music and highlighted what the judges have identified as the most exciting and ear-catching work on offer. It is a dynamic time for British composition and we are immensely proud to be supporting composers in this way."

Jonathan Dove is indeed best known for his operas and choral music. Glyndebourne audiences will recall his airport comedy *FLIGHT*, "one of the few successful comic operas of recent musical history", as *The Sunday Times* put it. Dove seems to have the knack of producing complex and yet very popular music, no mean feat after the wasteland of the Darmstadt School. Whether critics or musicologists like it or not, Jonathan Dove writes music that surprises, pleases and can be understood by audiences at large as his community work proves.

Coming from a family of architects, Dove's work has often been associated with buildings. He wrote music for the opening ceremonies of the Millennium Dome and the Millennium Bridge and provided the score for a film about the architect Carlo Scarpa. Film and architecture come together in one of his latest projects, *Work in Progress, 14 site-visits for piano and orchestra*, composed for the opening season of The Sage Gateshead (the new music-centre designed by Norman Foster) which also incorporated a film of the building process.

Dove is also a highly accomplished composer of theatre music with many scores to his credit. Theatre goers remember his music for national theatres *HIS DARK MATERIALS* and most recently for *OEDIPUS* starring Ralph Fiennes.

With his expertise and the right librettist we can certainly expect more opera from him. In the meantime we hope that *THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO* will be as successful in 2009 as *HANSEL UND GRETEL* was at Christmas 2008.

NEW DVD RELEASES

PHI is very proud to be associated with *THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO*, recorded by Opus Arte for world television and Home Video release. Immediately after the world première at the Grand Theatre Leeds on December 21st 2007, the decision was taken to produce an audiovisual version of Opera North's highly successful stage production.

Opera North took the production on tour to Nottingham, Salford Quays, Belfast, London and Newcastle before shipping it off to Chemnitz where it opened on June 28th 2008. During the London performance run Opus Arte made its recording with Thomas Grimm directing. The television world premiere happened on Mezzo for Christmas 2008. The DVD will be released by Opus Arte in February 2009.



MORE PRESS FOR HANSEL UND GRETEL

"Den höchsten Genuss aber bietet das detaillierte Dirigat von Colin Davis, der die volkstümliche Melodik liebevoll mit der üppig wagnerisierenden Polyphonie verschmilzt und den Streichern seidig glänzende Klänge entlockt."

FAZ, 12.12.2008

NEW PROGRAMMES NOW AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY

GERARD DEPARDIEU

52'



JEROME ROBBINS - A CELEBRATION

90'

THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO

156'

MARIA HAYDEE: "THE BEST IS STILL TO COME!"

45'

LA BELLE HISTOIRE DES BAINS DE MER

52'

LEON FLEISHER

- RECITAL FOR TWO HANDS

48'



TANNHÄUSER & Introductory Documentary TANNHÄUSER THE REVOLUTIONARY

240'

TAMERLANO

4 hours

POORHOUSE INTERNATIONAL AT MIDEM

We hope to see you at the IMZ Zone and / or at the Grand Hotel (Tel. 0033 4 9338 1545). The Poorhouse International Showreel will be screened at Avant Première during the afternoon of Wednesday, January 21st, at ca. 13:20 h.

Poorhouse
INTERNATIONAL

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