



nice-matin

FRIDAY MAY 30, 2003

Coppelia Goes to the Movies!

The famous romantic ballet has been transformed...
in the studios of Méliès. Great success!

THE ORCHESTRA ATTACKS the celebrated waltz from the ballet *Coppelia*, and an entire world surges onto the stage and into our minds! An entire Second Empire and Belle Époque, with their joy, good manners, and entertainment on the Boulevard! You can't resist. Just a few drops of Delibes in your blood, and you are in a state of intoxication! (Delibes is the composer's name).

The Nice Philharmonic has been playing this music with style and spirit since Tuesday at the opera under the direction of the young conductor Philippe Béran. What happens on stage is at the same level as what is heard in the pit. The opera's Ballet moves ahead and out does itself. Marc Ribaud, director of the Nice-based troupe, has quite possibly given his best choreographic performance yet. Everything is joyful, everything works marvelously, nothing is pretentious. The ballet troupe is at ease and brilliant. You watch, you admire, you let yourself be taken away, you're happy!

Taken from The Tales of Hoffmann, the story of Coppelia is that of an erudite Coppélius who falls in love with a doll (Coppelia). Normally, the action takes place in a German village. Who knows why Marc Ribaud decided to bring it to the movie studio of Georges Méliès in Paris at the beginning of the 20th century.

And Coppélius is Méliès in person! The glass wall of the movie studio was reconstructed on the stage of the Nice Opera, and the action unfolds during the filming of *Le Chaudron infernal (The Infernal Boiling Pot)*, *La rue de Paris*, or *Le Mariage (The Marriage)*!


Well, everything works, everything goes together. *Coppelia* does its duty.

Why? Why not? The goal is that the show be a success. It is! The ballet troupe lifts us up into the whirlwind of its happiness. A few of the solo performances can be admired, such as those on Wednesday night by Roberta Mazzoni and Paolo Nocera. (The soloists change according to the performance).

Compliments are due to Marc Ribaud and to his ballet. They are working away in their corner, without making any noise. They are almost forgotten. But, when they arrive on stage, the audience comes alive. That part is real; it's not just play-acting.

André PEYREGNE

Michael Kowalewski, a professional translator of French into English, has translated the attached document under contract to 1-800-Translate, an American Translators Association (ATA) corporate membership company. We have examined the document and have found it to be a complete and accurate translation of the original provided to us.


Janneth Alfaro, Project Manager

State of New York, County of New York
Sworn to me before me this 17th day of Oct. 2007


Fei-Xue Qian, Notary Public

Fei-Xue Qian
No. 01Q16057816
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires April 23, 2011