



T GENEVA 12/06

[caption]

Coppelia at the BFM. Coppelius (Manuel Vignoulle) and Coppelia (Cécile Robin Prévallée). (GTG/ISABELLE MEISTER)

BFM's *Coppelia* is a Pure Wonder

The Ballet of the Grand Théâtre will have good Holidays thanks to Cisco Aznar.
BENJAMIN CHAIX

In a totally different style from last year's *Nutcracker*, the Ballet of the Grand Théâtre has done a fabulous job this year at the BFM with the remake of another famous ballet. The delicate job of bringing the doll Coppelia back to the stage was entrusted to Cisco Aznar, an artist from Barcelona living in Lausanne. It has a little Dali and Alomodovar and a lot of Aznar in it.

Acting as a stage curtain, a promotional slide praises the uses of an olive oil. *La Santissima* is the sponsor of the television game show that humorously opens the ballet. It's a dance contest for fiancés with an award of wedding gifts at stake. But, the winner only has eyes for a strange female viewer who is watching him from her home. From that moment on, the television parody becomes a fantastic tale, backed by sequences filmed in Geneva with the dancers and projected at the back of the stage. Cisco Aznar remarkably succeeded in integrating Léo Delibes' score into this new project for the Ballet du Grand Théâtre. That's how the music, joyfully played by the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, directed by Philippe Béran, becomes like movie music or background music, or even music for a 50's dance party.

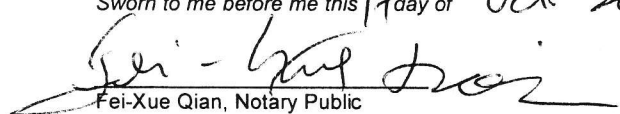
The choreographer didn't skimp on the theatrical game or on the dance, using numerous actors, pointes, pas de deux, ensembles, and bravura passage for his narration. The entire company has a really great time, masked or not, in the fabulous costumes by Luis Lara. A city in black and white, then a glowing red interior populated by frightening nurse dolls are home the episodes of this intelligent ballet, clearly more fascinating than the original. And, for good measure, a psychoanalytic exploration in images and in music of the very depths of Doctor Coppelius' soul. An absolute must see show, whether you like dance or not.

Le Ballet

Coppelia, at the BFM, December 21, 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 8:00 pm, December 23 and 24 at 3:00 pm, and December 31 at 5:00 pm. Reservations 022.418.31.30.

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