

Divas Unleashed as the Trocks take Ballet into Uncharted Territory...Comedy

“Part goofy, part glorious, all man” (*New York Times*), the gender-bending “mallerinas” of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo bring their playful interpretation of classical ballet just in time for the holidays. This critically-acclaimed company, now in its 38th year, will send audiences on a satirical romp through the most treasured moments of the art, in the Philadelphia premieres of *Go for Barocco* and *Laurencia* (excerpt) and the long-awaited return of *Le Lac Des Cygnes* (*Swan Lake*, Act II), **December 13 - 15.**

These performances are part of Dance Celebration, presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center. Performances take place at the Annenberg Center, 3680 Walnut Street, on Thursday, **December 13** at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, **December 14** at 8 p.m. and Saturday, **December 15** at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$65 (prices are subject to change). For tickets or for information, visit AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215-898-3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo or the Trocks, as the company is lovingly known, have toured worldwide since their founding in 1974. Led by Artistic Director Tory Dobrin, the company is comprised of professional male dancers performing *en travesti* and *en pointe* in faithful renditions of the manners and conceits of classical to contemporary balletic styles.

Incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents and underlying incongruities of serious dance, the Trocks perform all the parts—with heavy

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bodies delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, romantic princesses and angst-ridden Victorian ladies.

Opening with a fan favorite, the Trocks will perform *Le Lac Des Cygnes* (*Swan Lake*, Act II), featuring Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* music with inventive choreography after Lev Ivanovich Ivanov. As the company's signature piece, the Trocks take on the beloved tale of Odette, the beautiful princess turned to swan, and the handsome Prince Siegfried who tries to save her.

The Trocks will also perform *Go for Barocco*, a prized piece created in the company's



founding year, that spotlights ballet master George Balanchine as epitomized by his *Concerto Barocco*. The piece features music by Johann Sebastian Bach, choreography by Peter Anastos and costumes by Mike Gonzales. With a playful and modern approach, the Trocks, clad in stark black leotards, execute controlled yet lively movements.

To close, the company will perform an excerpt from the final act of *Laurencia*, a 1939 piece about a peasant revolution, originally choreographed by Vakhtang Chabukiani, with music by Alexander Krain. Premiered at the Kirov Theater in Leningrad (now St Petersburg), *Laurencia's* choreography was an innovative blend of classical and folk dance which featured the virile and heroic male dancing that Chabukiani personified.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo was founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts for the purpose of presenting a tongue-in-cheek, entertaining view of ballet in parody form. By mid-1975, Les Ballets Trockadero's unique blend of extensive dance knowledge, comic approach and men dancing *en pointe* without falling flat on their faces, gained international recognition. Since the beginning, the company has established itself as a major dance phenomenon throughout the world. Over the years, the Trocks have won numerous dance awards, including the United Kingdom's Critic's Circle National Dance Award for Best Classical Repertoire in 2007, the 2006 British Theatrical Managers Award and the 2007 Italian Positano Award for Excellence in Dance.

Les Ballets Trockadero is also committed to giving back through the art of dance. The company continues to appear in benefits for international AIDS organizations such as DRA (Dancers Responding to AIDS) and Classical Action in New York City, the Life Ball in Vienna, Austria, Dancers for Life in Toronto, Canada, London's Stonewall Gala and Germany's AIDS Tanz Gala. In addition, Les Ballets Trockadero has participated in special benefit performances for Connecticut Ballet Theater, Ballet Hawaii, Indianapolis Ballet Theater, Rochester City Ballet, Dancers in Transition (NYC), Sadler's Wells Theater in London and the Ali Forney Center, benefiting homeless gay youths in New York City.

On **December 14** there is a Post-show talk back. Ticket holders can stay after the performance for a talk back with the company.

In addition to the performances, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo will be conducting a master class taught by a company member, Friday, **December 14** at 1 p.m. (UARTS, 211 S. Broad St.; advance registration is required). For information, contact Anne-Marie Mulgrew at annemarie@danceaffiliates.org or 215-636-9000 x110.

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Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo to perform at the Annenberg Center on December 13 - 15.

