

The performance was attended by Mads Oelholm, great-great-grandson of August Bournonville, who said that he hasn't seen a performance of this level of quality for years

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The ballet *La Sylphide* premiered at the Split Croatian National Theatre in the best way possible – the audience showed their satisfaction with the new play with long applause and shouts of “Bravo”, inviting the solo artists, ballet ensemble and the team of authors to return for several times to bow to the audience. Congratulations were exchanged for a long time after the curtains went down after the end of act two of this classical ballet, and the majority of them went to the Ballet Director Igor Kirov, for whom this is his first premiere since moving from Germany to Split.

“I am very happy for this opportunity, when we have such a lovely classical ballet piece in our repertoire, because I was full of uncertainty leading up to the premiere. Split audience is very demanding, and I know its preferences when it comes to the modern ballet, but I didn't know what to expect with the *La Sylphide*. I am also proud of the good work of our dancers, as well as our entire team of authors. They worked hard over the last seven weeks, but it was all worth it. I am overjoyed with what we presented to the audience” Kirov said. **Karina Elver**, former solo artist of the Royal Danish Ballet and choreographer who brought the original choreography to the Split ballet dancers, as well as the **Mads Oelholm**, great-great-grandson of **August Bournonville** were also in attendance.

“**LA SYLPHIDE**” – PREMIER PERFORMANCE OF THE BALLET WAS DOMINATED BY FANTASTIC SCENOGRAPHY WITH EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE COSTUMES

BALLET FAIRY TAIL CAPTIVATES SPLIT AUDIENCE

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Among other things, the costumes were visually very impressive

FOTO: KLAUS WEGELE

According to the descendant of the Danish choreographer, the Split performance was extraordinary, and he said that he hasn't seen a show of this level of quality for years. This 180-year old original version is performed all over the world. According to the commentaries of the ballet lovers given after the performance, what the Split audience like the most in this sad story on the impossible love between a Scottish peasant and a forest fairy, are the vivid Scottish costumes and dances in the first act, and the fairy tale atmosphere of the scene in the second act.

Praises could be readily heard for solo artists as well, Hazuki Tanase as *La Sylphide*, Artiom Žusov as James, Nikša de Marehi as Madge, Aleksandar Korijakovski as Gurno, Matea Milas as Effy the fiancé... but also for the entire ensemble which was engaged in large numbers. For the most part, citizens of Split (and several persons from public life of the city were also present in the audience) have seen the performance as “very charming” and visually very attractive.