

THE DANCERS OF THE CROATIAN NATIONAL THEATRE'S ENSEMBLE ARE PREPARING "LA SYLPHIDE", WHICH IS SET TO PREMIERE ON 10 MARCH

Dane Brings the Oldest Ballet Blanc in the World to Split

The ballet was first performed in 1832 at the Paris Opera, and the Danish dancer and choreographer August Bournonville created his own version based on its libretto four years later. The Split premiere will also be choreographed by a Dane – Karina Elver – and its costumes and set will be copied from the Danish original.

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PHOTOS BY:

MARIO TODORIĆ/HANZA MEDIA

The dancers of the Ballet Ensemble of the Croatian National Theatre have begun rehearsing for a new piece – the romantic ballet "La Sylphide". This ballet has never before been seen on the stages of Split, and audiences will have the opportunity to enjoy it for the first time on 10 March. This two-act ballet was first performed in 1832 at the Paris Opera according to choreography by the Italian Filippo Taglioni, though the Danish dancer and choreographer August Bournonville used its libretto to create his own version for the Royal Danish Ballet only four years later. 180 years later, Split audiences will have the opportunity to admire the Dane's choreography – which is considered to be one of the oldest preserved choreographies in the world - for the very first time.

In Croatia, "La Sylphide" was performed in the Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka in 2000, and in the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb in 2005. In charge of teaching the dancers of Split this choreography is Karina Elver, choreographer and former soloist of the Royal Danish Ballet, who has arrived recently in Split and is rehearsing with the ensemble every day.

THE BOURNONVILLE METHOD

"Through we're still in the early phase of preparing the ballet, I'm happy to say that my collaboration with the dancers is going well. They express a lot of interest and are aware of the fact that the task they're facing is not easy, due fact that this ballet can be described as very specific due to its use of the *Bournonville Method*. This technique is new to them, and the acting part is also very important – pantomime and expressing human feelings, and expressing good and evil. So, this is something we're working on a lot. All of us, both the ensemble and the soloists, are taking the rehearsals very seriously, and there is still a lot of work ahead of us. Working with the conductor is another distinct part of it all, as there are certain parts of both the music and the ballet that need some fine-tuning", says our Dane, who has been working freelance for the last ten or so years, mostly in New York and other US states. The last time she set up "La Sylphide" was at the Colorado Ballet in Denver.

In addition to her love for ballet, another thing that motivated her to come to Split was the theatre's new Director of Ballet, Igor Kirov, whom she describes as follows: "I feel that he really wants to help the ensemble develop and grow, and this is a rare thing, as directors usually only think about their own careers".

I, Mandica Vuković, prof., certified court interpreter for English language, appointed by Decree No. 4-Su-194/2015 of 05 October 2015 by the President of the County Court in Split, do hereby certify that the above translation fully complies with the Croatian original.

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Mandica Vuković, prof.

