

# LES BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO'S 2014 U.S.A. TOUR

## PREMIERING "LAC" TO CELEBRATE JEAN-CHRISTOPHE MAILLOT'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*"For those who love motion in dance, what a delight! The ballet innovates and entertains without turning its back on the story."* - Le Figaro Magazine

*"The subtle and sharp writing gives depth to the drama...beautifully inventive gestures...an exhilarating air of freedom."* – Danser Magazine

**New York, January 17, 2014**– Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo will celebrate choreographer-director Jean-Christophe Maillot's 20th anniversary this year by premiering LAC (after Swan Lake), Maillot's personal vision of Tchaikovsky's masterwork, with performances at The Segerstrom Center in Costa Mesa (March 7 - 9) and the New York City Center (March 14 - 16).

LAC will be presented by Les Ballets De Monte-Carlo under the Presidency of H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover, in association with The Segerstrom Center, New York City Center and Ardani Artists. Visual artist Ernest Pignon-Ernest designed the scenery, with costume design by Philippe Guillotel.

Jean-Christophe Maillot has re-worked Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's pillar of the classic repertoire with the award-winning writer Jean Rouaud, bringing a modern-day relevance to the timeless story of Siegfried and Odette. The 2011 work explores the torments of childhood fears and nightmares. Buried experiences and memories are resurrected against a Machiavellian family backdrop to create a ballet of stark contrasts - good vs. evil, white vs. black, purity vs. eroticism – questions that define us as human beings.

"LAC is a new version of the classical ballet, honoring the past, but with a slice of contemporary codes," said Jean-Christophe Maillot. "Today's audiences can feel attached to the story Swan Lake, one of ballet's most beautiful stories. It is a story of sensuality, about the ideal woman. The White Swan is the beautiful, pure woman every man falls in love with once in his life; the Black Swan represents sexuality, strength, power and control. We look forward to introducing this new ballet that that showcases the dancers' artistry with traditional and contemporary ballet styles," he said.

"The combined creativity of Jean-Christophe and the company of Les Ballets, together with their passion for excellence, is reflected in this acclaimed production. We are truly delighted that these wonderful cultural envoys of the principality are back to showcase the singular cultural heritage of Monaco," said Her Excellency Maguy Maccario Doyle, Monaco's Ambassador to the United States.

New Yorkers are invited to purchase a 'Premiere Experience' package that includes premium seating for the New York performance of LAC on March 14, followed by an exclusive cast after-party hosted by the Consulate General of Monaco and the Monaco Government Tourist Office. Guests will have the chance to meet and mingle with director-choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot and the members of this world-renowned company, including principal dancers, while enjoying champagne, cocktails and fine food. Space is strictly limited to first 100 'Premiere Experience' ticket purchasers. Each 'Premiere Experience' ticket is \$275.00 with all proceeds benefitting Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo. ([www.MonacoTakesNY.com](http://www.MonacoTakesNY.com))

### **Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo**

Ballet has had a strong presence in Monaco since Russian impresario Serge de Diaghilev presented his legendary ballet company, Ballets Russes, in 1909. H.R.H. The Princess of Hanover, wanting to maintain the tradition of dance in Monaco, and to fulfil the wishes of Her mother, Princess Grace, formed Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo in 1985, under the direction of Ghislaine Thesmar and Pierre Lacotte, followed by Jean-Yves Esquerre.

In 1992, Jean-Christophe Maillot joined the company as artistic consultant and was promoted to the rank of Director-Choreographer in 1993. Today, the company consists of 50 dancers, and its repertoire includes works from the Ballets Russes and contemporary pieces from Maillot as well as acclaimed and emerging guest choreographers. The company has toured France, the United States and China and will soon travel to the U.K. In 2011, dance in Monaco underwent a major and historical change when H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover combined Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo company, the Monaco Dance Forum and the Princess Grace Academy into a single organization. Maillot was appointed head of this company, which now unites the excellence of an international company, the benefits of a multi-format festival and the potential of a high-level school. ([www.balletsdemontecarlo.com](http://www.balletsdemontecarlo.com))

### **Jean-Christophe Maillot**

Born in 1960, Jean-Christophe Maillot studied dance and piano at the Conservatoire National de Région de Tours. He won the Prix de Lausanne in 1977 and went on to dance principal roles as a soloist at the Hamburg Ballet for five years. An accident brought his dancing career to an abrupt end. In 1983, he was appointed choreographer and director of the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Tours, which later became a National Centre of Choreography. In 1987 he became Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo's Artistic Advisor for the 1992-1993 season and was appointed Director-Choreographer by H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover in September 1993. His arrival set the company on a new path that quickly developed the level of maturity and excellence for which this company is renowned. He has created almost 30 ballets for the company, some of which have forged the reputation of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo across the world. Several of these works are now included in the repertoires of major international ballet companies. Maillot is known for his spirit of openness and his commitment to inviting choreographers with a different style to create for the company.

In 2000 he created the Monaco Dance Forum, an international showcase for dance. In 2009, he developed the content and coordinated the Centenary of the Ballets Russes in Monaco, which featured over 50 companies and choreographers. In 2011, H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover appointed Maillot head of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, a new organization uniting Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, the Monaco Dance Forum and the Princess Grace Academy under a single organization.

Les Ballet de Monte-Carlo will present four performances of LAC at:

- The Segerstrom Center on Friday, March 7 at 7:30pm, Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, and Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are priced from \$35 to \$135 and can be purchased online at [www.SCFTA.org](http://www.SCFTA.org), by calling ticket services at (714) 556-2787, or at the Box Office located at 615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa CA. [www.SCFTA.org](http://www.SCFTA.org).
- New York City Center on Friday, March 14 at 8:00pm, Saturday, March 15 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm, and Sunday, March 16 at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$50, \$75, \$100 and can be purchased online at [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org), by calling CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or at the City Center Box Office at 131 West 55th St. (bet 6th & 7th Aves), New York, NY. [www.NYCityCenter.org](http://www.NYCityCenter.org).

The Ballet de Monte-Carlo gratefully acknowledges support from Principality of Monaco, official partner CFM Monaco Private Banking, Les Thermes Marins Monte Carlo, and Rolex.

### **LAC (after SWAN LAKE)**

**March 7-9 The Segerstrom Center, Costa Mesa & March 14 -16 New York City Center, New York**

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography: Jean-Christophe Maillot

Set design: Ernest Pignon-Ernest

Costume design: Philippe Guillotel

Dramaturgy: Jean Rouaud

Additional music: Bertrand Maillot

Lighting: Jean-Christophe Maillot and Samuel Theyry