



OPERA DANS

OperaDans is an interdisciplinary vocal music, dance and creative arts ensemble based in The Netherlands and directed by the Canadian soprano, Nicole Jordan.

In their new adaptation of Andersen's well-loved story, *The Snow Queen*, the actor, Chip Bray sets the scene as the narrator. The role of the Snow Queen will be played by Nicole Jordan who sings and the sensual songs of the Romantic Era (1800- 1900) with music by composers such as Richard Strauss and Gabriel Fauré. These songs were written during the same period in which Andersen was writing his own masterworks and were chosen by OperaDans to compliment the story of the Snow Queen and provide the emotional content of the story.

The stunning harpist Astrid Haring will accompany Nicole and provide the musical canvass for the show. Astrid and her instrument play the part of the evil mirror, which is central to the story. The harp can be heard to "twang" out of tune when the mirror breaks and Kai gets a shard of the evil glass in his eye.

Three Codarts-trained dancers play the roles of the Goblin (Zaddik Francis), Kai (Konrad Szymanski), and Gerda (Jozefien Debaille). The choreographies, set by Zaddik Francis, depict the story and respond to and interact with the harpist and singer.



THE SNOW QUEEN BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

The story of the Snow Queen begins with a mirror that is created by a wicked Goblin. Whoever looks in the mirror can see only ugliness and evil. One day, the mirror shatters into tiny pieces. Those pieces of glass fly through the air and whoever gets this glass in their eye can only see that which is bad in the world.

Gerda and Kai are childhood sweethearts. Unfortunately, Kai gets a piece of the evil glass in his eye and his heart turns cold towards Gerda. This attracts the attention of the Snow Queen whose own heart has turned cold. Kai and the Snow Queen become passionately obsessed with each other. The Snow Queen lures Kai away to her icy palace.

Gerda begins a trek in search of Kai. She must travel through all of the seasons and meet many strange characters along the way. When she finally reaches the Snow Queen's palace in winter she attempts to save Kai. However, this is not a simple task. Gerda is determined to get Kai back and fights with the Snow Queen. Alas, Gerda is defeated and begins to succumb to the cold. As Gerda nears death, Kai finds it in his heart to save her. He decides to take Gerda back home and leaves the Snow Queen behind. Gerda recovers and has her fairy tale ending, but the question lingers: is 'happily ever after' really as simple as it sounds?

PROGRAM

PRELUDE: THE MIRROR

Prelude opus 12 no. 7 (harp)

Sergei Prokofiev

PART I: GERDA, KAI AND THE SNOW QUEEN

Au bord de l'eau (harp and voice)

Gabriel Fauré

Automne (harp and voice)

Gabriel Faure

L'Invitation de voyage (harp and voice)

Henri Duparc

Milonga del Angel (harp)

Astor Piazzolla

PART II: GERDA AND THE OLD WOMAN

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges (harp and voice)

Felix Mendelssohn

Gretchen am Spinnrade (harp and voice)

Franz Schubert

-PAUSE (15 minutes)-

PART III: GERDA AND THE ROBBER GIRL

Claire de Lune (harp)

Claude Debussy

Après un Rêve (harp and voice)

Gabriel Fauré

Divertissement A l'Espagnol (harp)

Andre Caplet

Au bord de l'eau (harp and voice)

Gabriel Fauré

Nacht und Träume (harp and voice)

Franz Schubert

PART IV: THE PALACE

Zueignung (harp and voice)

Richard Strauss

Sarabande (harp)

Nino Rota

L'Absence (harp and voice)

Hector Berlioz

PERFORMERS

Soprano, Nicole Jordan is the artistic director of OperaDans. Nicole holds an honours undergraduate BMus in vocal performance from Acadia University, Canada; a MSc in Music Psychology from Keele University, UK; and a PhD in Music Performance Studies from Sheffield University, UK. Nicole has been a singer and singing teacher for over ten years. She has sung soprano with a number of professional groups including The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, The Canadian Chamber Choir, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and the early music ensemble, The Harp Consort. www.nicolejordan.info.



Harpist, Astrid Haring is a recent Masters graduate of the Koncon in The Hague where she graduated as a Master summa cum laude. Astrid has played with the Residentie Orchestra and the Ligeti Academy, organised by the ASKO Schonberg ensemble. In September 2008 Astrid worked on '15 minute universe' in collaboration with choreographer David Middendorp. This show, including live music, dance and co-ordination technique has been performed at various festivals throughout Holland. Since 2008, Astrid has performed in a duo with bass trombonist Brandt Attema. Together, they have played many international festivals. Astrid has also worked with singer Caroline Cartens with whom she aims to create works bridging contemporary music and poetry. www.myspace.com/astridharing.

Narrator, Chip Bray spent 13 years touring Europe with 'Pigeon Drop Comedy Company'. Since then he has performed his one-man show, 'Mr. Monday Night' at the LIDO in Amsterdam and worked with various international improvisational groups. Chip can be seen on Dutch tv and in international feature films. He performs with The English Actors Company for business events, teaches comic acting at the British school of Amsterdam and hosts a short film festival called OPEN SCREEN in Amsterdam. Chip manages International Native Casting: an agency for foreign actors living in the Benelux. www.chipbray.com.

Dancer and choreographer, Zaddik Francis graduated from Codarts- Rotterdam Dance Academy in 2007. During that time she had the opportunity to work with many national and international dancers and choreographers such as Jerome Meyer, Isabelle Chaffoud (Codex one) and Leine & Roebana (Raster). Zaddik believes that dance and movement is about breaking rules. www.myspace.com/zaddikdance.

Dancer, Jozefien Debaille began dancing in Belgium at the young age of 3. At the age of 14 she was accepted to the Royal ballet school in Antwerp, Belgium. Afterwards she studied at Codarts - Rotterdam dance academy. Since graduating 2008, she has danced in 'Guibileo' by Krisztina de Chatel and a variation of productions with Meekers uitgesproken dans. This season Jozefien will also be seen in Dansclick in the Korzo theater.

Dancer, Konrad Syzmanski works as a performer and creator in the fields of contemporary dance theatre, performance art and photography. In 2006 he graduated from the Economics Faculty of the University of Lodz (PL) and one year later he graduated from Rotterdam Dance Academy (NL) with specialization dance. Collaborating with artists in the Netherlands and Poland, he develops his interest in improvisation, which has become a language for his artistic work. Beside his composition performances on stage and in public spaces, he also creates live installations and dance productions. www.konradfotodance.com



ART

Costume designer, Leslie Eisinger is a young fashion designer at the Koninklijke Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Den Haag (2010). Her work is inspired by natural elements and textures. The Snow Queen is not the first collaborative project that Leslie has worked on. She has also worked with Martijn Verlinden and Sjaak Jöbbses and Flopidisk. These were costumes for "MidiFanfare", a project for the State-X New Forms festival in Den Haag. For The Snow Queen, the OperaDans ensemble are wearing pieces from Leslie's collections 'Zijn in de stad' and 'Dr Eisinger, Human Zoo'. www.leslieeisinger.nl

Artist, Kathryn Romaine Koch is an American new to The Hague and has a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting. She has freelanced as an artist in New York for the past 12 years creating structural work in a variety of mediums, from simple crafts to complex architectural models.

Thank you to all who have contributed their time, talent, and energy to this production.

This includes, but is definitely not limited to:

Fonds 1818, financial support
Laure Thomas-Jousselin, promotion and accounting
Berend Dijkers, business advice
Stichting The English Theatre, promotion
De Dutch Don't Dance Division (DeDDDD), support
Adam/Jordan Designs, promotional material
The Stichting Cultureel Beheer (SCB), venue
Leslie Eisinger, costume design
Marco van der Veld, lighting
Summer Mughrabi, poster photo
The Meekers, rehearsal studio
Flamenco Underground, rehearsal studio
K'Dans Studio, rehearsal studio
Kathryn Romaine Koch, flower design
Sushasini C, stagehand
Sarah & Anna & Kismet, helping hands!,
and, of course, the amazing OperaDans crew!

**And a special thanks to the audience for joining us for this magical event.
We hope you enjoy the show!**

Remember that proceeds of these shows will go to **War Child**. War Child brings creative, recreational, educational and therapeutic resources to children who have suffered in war-affected areas of the world. OperaDans strongly believes that artists play an important role in society as agents of change. We are proud to donate 10% of the proceeds of The Snow Queen to War Child.

By joining our mailing list, you will receive a discount and special offers for future shows.

OperaDans is on Twitter! Keep up to date by visiting:
www.operadans.com/news.html

