

The Hungarian National Ballet Company Hosts 2010 European Ballet Forum



According to Gábor Keveházi, Artistic Director of the 125 year old, 110 members strong Hungarian National Ballet Company, "we want to meet the challenges of the current economic climate head on". To do that, Keveházi spearheaded the first European Ballet Forum, a roundtable Directors' seminar last year in the Hungarian State Opera House among a group of his European colleagues. His idea was to touch base with regards to financial projections within the arts and to exchange ideas as to what to do about it in the present economic climate. While

there are European forums to address larger Opera House strategies, it comes down to the Directors to navigate the stormy waters of reconciling the realities of long repertory and new works.

One of the ways to make the HNBC more cost effective was to have an annual summer program within the Opera House in a professional atmosphere. The experienced faculty was brought in to vet, train and prepare pre-professional dancers for a mass audition for the HNBC joined by other European companies. "Every company" explains International Cultural Manager, Gabriella Komor, "has issues when it comes to accommodating the hundreds of annual requests to our offices for auditions. We simply cannot hold company classes and special auditions due to time constraints. Our season is long and intensive. The summer program was devised to accommodate the dancers and the companies in a way that makes it a sure bet that the dancer can put their best performance forward. And, the directors would be able to have a more discriminating look at the kind of dancer that might have otherwise escaped their attention". And, that's just one way to offset the expenses.

Following this year's summer program and final showcase, the directors will expand upon last year's discussions to include pragmatic ways in which to share resources among themselves. By sharing information about their plans and their needs for upcoming seasons, they are well able to schedule the type of cooperation that could save substantial money in sets, costumes and even touring.

"We have had 125 years of ballet growth in quality and scope in this country that is world renowned; our mutual cooperation with our fellow respected European Company Directors will help ensure that we do what we can to keep our momentum going" smiles Keveházi.

For more information, please contact:

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