Ballet BC bring *Orpheus* to Fredericton's Playhouse

Prestigious company to launch third @theplayhouse season

by Bruns Staff



Special to The Brunswickan

Ballet BC open The Playhouse's third @theplayhouse season.

The opening performance of the new @theplayhouse season features a journey to ancient Greece with one of the most prestigious ballet companies in the country: Ballet British Columbia.

The classically-trained dancers will perform the praised piece, *Orpheus*, on Friday, September 26th.

"After last season's success, there's definitely a lot of excitement about the new @theplayhouse line-up...and some very high expectations," says Playhouse director Tim Yerxa.

"Ballet British Columbia is certainly a premiere company; one that will delight both ballet aficionados and those who just want to experience world class ballet for the first time. I'm very confident that *Orpheus* will live up to those high expectations — it's absolutely beautiful."

Under the Artistic Direction of John Alleyne, a former first soloist for the National Ballet School and an accomplished choreographer, *Orpheus* is a full length story-ballet based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.

It explores the frontier between solitude and loneliness, and the hunger for love through classically inspired movements with a contemporary style.

Critically, *Orpheus* has received resounding accolades. A Georgia Straight reviewer called the ballet "fresh, demanding and sophisticated."

Yerxa agrees that *Orpheus* is a first rate piece and the company's dancers are highly-skilled with impressive backgrounds. But he also stresses that all Playhouse performances — even classical ballet — are accessible to everyone, dance-lover or not.

"It's important that we present a diverse range of performances for our audience," Yerxa says.

"*Orpheus* is a chance for the community to experience a major ballet company on our stage. Even if people don't think ballet is for them, the beauty of the costumes, the dancers and the movements will impress them."

Tickets to Ballet B.C.'s *Orpheus* are available now at the Playhouse box office. For more information, call 458-8344 or find The Playhouse online at www.theplayhouse.ca.

Locals to tour cross-country

Dionisus plan to party in some new cities

by Ben Conoley



Tanya Duffy/The Brunswickan

Dio' (l-r): Pierre Breau, Shawn Amos, Zach Atkinson, Greg Webber

By the time you get through this article and decide that you want to see Dionisus live, you'll be too late – at least for now.

The Fredericton quartet is on the road all month, playing 26 shows in 30 days as they cross the country in a van hoping to pick up some new fans before coming back to play the Halifax Pop Explosion in early November.

Guitar players/vocalists Pierre Breau and Greg Webber, bassist Shawm Amos, and drummer Zach Atkinson will be traveling with Halifax pop-punk group, Shyne Factory, in what promises to be an entertaining month.

Pierre Breau explains how they got together with Shyne Factory: "We were like, you know what guys, you really need our help, very much so."

"It's not so much help as it's when someone looks like they need some love, that kind that you can only get from four guys. That's the kind of thing it is. It's like cramped love. Cramped behind love," adds Webber.

That special four-guy love is what a slew of people showed up to experience last week at Bugaboo Creek as Dionisus said "goodbye" to Fredericton, in preperation to say "hello" to the rest of the country.

"We're playing select dates across Canada," said Amos, adding, "We say 'select' to make it sound more important."

Dionisus released their first full-length album last Spring and are putting the finishing touches on their first video for the song 'I'm Sorry that was Me.' They've also managed to make friends with Brampton, Ontario band Moneen, and have played with a whole wack of other bands including Buck 65 at last year's East Coast Music Awards.

Although disappointed that they're not sharing the stage with Iron Maiden on any of the dates, Dionisus is really excited to be traveling across the country playing rock and roll. And don't worry, they'll be back in October.

Dionisus has been playing shows on the East Coast since 1998, and has previously toured through Ontario and Quebec.

Capital Films to present *Respiro*

by Jeremy Elder

This week, Capital Films brings us another award-winning film: Emanuele Crialese's comedy/drama *Respiro*. This Cannes winner has been well received by critics and audiences alike, and is based on a legend from the Italian island of Lampedusa.

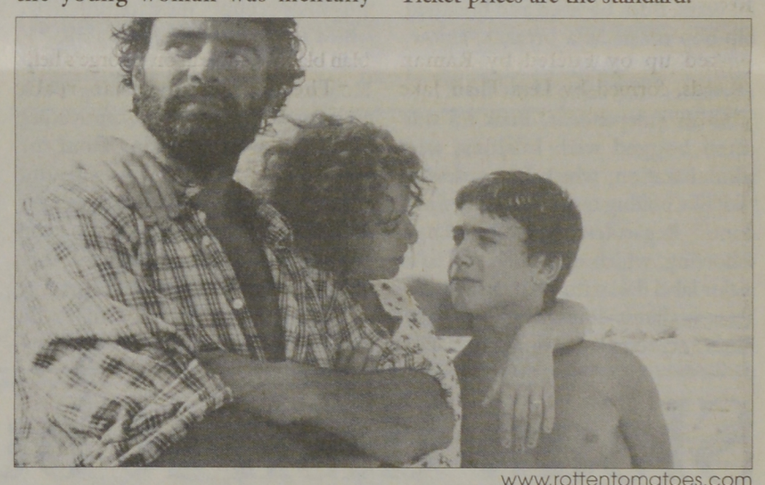
Grazia (Valerie Golino) is a mother of three children who works in the fish plant while her husband is out to sea. Life on the small island is rather mundane, and fun is often limited, even for the spirited Grazia. Nonetheless, she strives to make life interesting for herself and her kids, which, it turns out, has caused the town to start gossiping about her.

This is where the ties to the legend kick in, as the story reveals that a young woman, thought by the town to be 'crazy,' is driven to suicide through their ostracism. In the end, however, the power of the townspeoples' prayers brings her back to life. That's how the legend went, at any rate.

This film starts to deviate from the legend at this point. The legend told that the townspeople simply thought the young woman was mentally unbalanced, yet in *Respiro*, it seems quite likely that Grazia is actually in need of some help as she becomes more and more unpredictable and unstable. Crialese plays with these ideas and tries to imbue the entire situation with a harsh realism, which lies in contrast to the story's pure idealism.

Crialese goes a long way to try and convey the real Lampedusa, and the reality of its people, whom, according to him, are worlds apart even from other Italians. Whether or not it completely works is debatable, but this film is most likely worth seeing. The legend, at the very least, is an intriguing one.

Respiro will be screening Monday, September 29th at 8:00 pm. Running time is 90 minutes, and as always the film will be shown in Tilley 102. Ticket prices are the standard.



www.rottentomatoes.com

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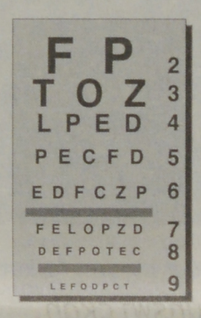
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