



Carmina Burana in Bangkok

On September 29th at the Thailand Cultural Centre in Bangkok the Spellbound Dance Company, one of the most famous Italian dance companies, staged the ballet "Carmina Burana", as part of this year's International Festival of Dance & Music and under the sponsorship of the Embassy of Italy.

Directed by reputable choreographer Mauro Astolfi, the Spellbound Dance Company danced on the notes of the notable musical opera in three acts "Carmina Burana", composed by Carl Orff in 1937, and reedited on the base of the collection of lyric poetry written by wandering clerics in the XIII century.

"But this show – according to Valentina Marini, manager of the company – does not only enact Orff's well known music, because the choreography was created keeping well in mind Antonio Vivaldi and Valentino Caracciolo's amazing musical creations".

The show consists of three parts: the "clergy" part, which points out the profligacy and debauchery of the clergymen of the time; the merry part in which food, wine and sensual pleasures play the leading role of the story; the conclusion, where some of the most peculiar aspects of the second part are staged, the most important of which is insanity.

"On the whole – Valentina Marini summarizes – the show swings between a sacred dimension on one side and a mundane one on the other; it displays the different characters and nature that distinguish them".

The sacred and the mundane dimensions are brought to life by the dance and the choreography and the set design takes the main role.

"The greatest appeal of this show – the managers goes on – is precisely the interplay between set design and choreography. Set design components, like for example the wooden table, the benches and the closet, and take a complementary role to the dancers' movements and gesture; that emphasizes the dynamic tension between dancers on one side and the stage context on the other.

The result is a very captivating show. Adriana De Sanctis, former dancer and choreography assistant, points out that Mauro Astolfi, the choreography Director, succeeded in making the most of the nine dancers' strong character and personality; in doing so, he created a show with a strong sense of unity.

Tiziana Dionisio, the organizer of the Asian tour of the company, gladly stated that the public reacted in an extremely positive way. "The theatre was sold out and the rounds of applause were enthusiastic. I think – she went on – that we should offer foreign audience more chances of knowing Italian culture with a wider choice of high quality cultural activities".

At the end of the show the performers were greeted by several warm rounds of applause and by the personal tribute of His Excellency Michelangelo Pipan, Ambassador of Italy in Thailand. That was the end of a night in which the Italian culture was the centre of the stage.