

GODDESSES & *DEMONESSES*

BLANCA LI & MARIA ALEXANDROVA

/ 2015, CREATION /

A COPRODUCTION BY BLANCA LI / THEATRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

GODDESSES & *DEMONESSES*





GODDESSES & DEMONASSES

Goddesses & Demonesses is set in a mythological world inhabited by two radically different, but equally renowned, female dancers, Blanca Li and the Étoile Maria Alexandrova.

Like the great Greek gods of Antiquity, these two internationally celebrated dance goddesses perform with superhuman strength, continually transforming themselves into their opposites until good and evil, kindness and cruelty are as difficult to separate as Siamese twins. Evoking the same paradoxes existing in life on Earth, the goddesses of dance battle each other with fierce fury, empower each other with their joy and love, trick each other with great glee, eye each other with equal doses of trust and suspicion while creating chaos and harmony as they winkingly toy with human destiny.

To experience one of the world's most versatile choreographers and spellbinding modern dancers, Blanca Li, perform with the Bolshoi Ballet's most singular étoile is to enter a world of the unexpected in which two independent forces of nature unite in an always surprising and captivating vision.



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BLANCA
LI

12 SCENES...
AT THE BEGINNING WERE GODDESSES
AND DEMONESSES.
THEY USED TO REIGN OVER THE UNIVERSE.
AT THE BEGINNING WAS THE LIGHT AND SUN
WAS A FEMININE DIVINITY...

The show created by Blanca Li is set inside a sort of light box.
A concentrate of technology that gives life to myths. A dream machine in which magical
fantasy images collide. From the primordial goddess to Demeter, Hecate and Persephone,
from Erinyes to Furies and more, this show explores the fundamental feminine myths. The
two outstanding interprets turn themselves into Goddesses and Demonesses, enchanting
us and taking us deeper and deeper into the infinite universe of dance.

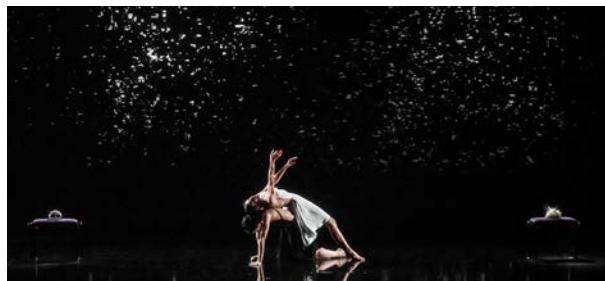




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Review from Le Figaro

“It has been a triumph. (...) The pinnacle of the show is reached when Blanca gives a solo beautifully inspired by Loïe Fuller’s art and the toreador’s gestures, with an immense red dress she flies all around her.”

Ariane Bavelier

Review from the Huffington Post

“Goddesses & Demonesses is first about the opposition of two singular dancers. The Spanish Blanca Li, armed with her abrupt charm, is burning the stage with her only presence. Her gestures are inspired by the contemporary dance as well as flamenco. Quite naturally, she sublimates the space when she appears draped in her carmine red dress as in a toreador cape. Far from the archetype of the ethereal ballet dancer, Maria Alexandrova shows the same charisma on stage. Her jet-black hair and athletic shape make her look like Blanca Li at first glance. The Russian étoile has a classical technique of excellence. The opening in Silhouette, where she arches her body on pointe, in an integral flesh-colored leotard, is particularly beautiful. This image reminding us of James Bond is a brilliant opening for the show. Great asset of the show: its scenography. It is in tune with the times, introducing video supports palliating smartly the uncluttered style of the decors.”

Jade Larine

Review from the Financial Times

“For much of the piece, Li and Alexandrova share the stage, one in white and the other in black, mirroring each other’s movements. They appear as shadow silhouettes, striking Egyptian-inspired poses; behind masks, leaning sensually on chairs; in Isadora Duncan-like flowing dresses. They share a beguiling androgynous quality. Alexandrova is a force of nature even by Moscow’s standards of bravura, a ballerina who takes charge on stage. It shows in a long solo where her rippling swan arms give way to imperious marching on pointe. Li, meanwhile, is angular and commanding in an oversized red skirt that is at once toga, flamenco prop and a throwback to Loie Fuller’s serpentine dance”.

Laura Capelle

BLANCA

LI

CHOREOGRAPHER,
FILM MAKER,
DANCER AND ACTRESS

In the end of 1992, Blanca Li, a young Spanish dancer full of a refreshing post-movida energy arrived in Paris. She loved to party, to dance, to provoke the encounter of different styles, cultures, disciplines.
She founded her own contemporary dance company in 1993.

23 years later, she is still running one of the few independent contemporary dance companies. Blanca Li is still as free and creative as when she began.
But taking responsibility for her choices for two decades definitely made her wiser, more glamorous and more confident.

Today more than ever, Blanca Li is a genre-breaking artist.
Married to a mathematician, and mother of two kids, Blanca fulfils all of her roles without forgetting her taste, her faith in the eclectic and in the artistic creation.

She conceived choreographies for countless music artists (Beyonce, Blur, Coldplay, Daft Punk, Paul McCartney, Kylie Minogue...), film makers (Pedro Almodovar, Jean-Jacques Annaud, Michel Gondry, Andrei Konchalovsky...). Numerous institutions have hosted her installations, events or choreographies (the National Paris Opera, the New York Metropolitan Opera, the Grand Palais in Paris, the Champs-Élysées Theatre, the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, the Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao...). Fashion designers love her too (Jean-Paul Gaultier, Azzedine Alaïa, Stella McCartney, Hermès...)

“For me, dance is a universal language, with no frontiers and no boundaries between styles or forms”, she says.

Inside or outside her company, Blanca Li created more than 30 shows, among which:

Macadam Macadam (1999)

Mixing hip-hop dancers, skateboard and BMX on a half pipe ramp

Sheherazade (2001)

for the Paris Opera, with costumes by Christian Lacroix, music by Rimsky Korsakov.

Poeta en Nueva York (2007)

from Federico Garcia Lorca, with Carmen Linares, Andres Marin, 20 dancers and 10 musicians on stage

Enamorados Anonimos (2008)

musical for a theatre on Madrid's Gran Via

The Garden of Earthly Delights (2009)

from the painting by Hieronymus Bosch

Treemonisha (2010)

A Scott Joplin opera for the Theatre of the Châtelet, Paris

Elektro Kif (2011)

First show staging electro dance

Robot (2013)

First show starring NAO, the smart robot invented by Aldebaran.

She directed 5 feature films among which 3 documentaries and 2 musicals (“*le Défi*” in 2002 and “*Elektro Mathematrix*” in 2016)

MARIA

ALEXANDROVA

ETOILE
OF THE BOLSHOI
THEATRE COMPANY

Maria Alexandrova was born in Moscow, Russia, in 1978. She enters the Bolshoi Theatre Company in 1997, right after she won the gold medal at the Moscow International Ballet Competition.

In her first season she was already trusted with several soloist parts, revealing her virtuoso technique and the great intensity of her dance. She was promoted to soloist the year after and became an étoile in 2004.

She has been selected for numerous creations, including the role of Jeanne in *The Flames of Paris* (2008), Swanilda in *Coppélia* (2009), and *Esmeralda* (2009).

Maria Alexandrova has been touring with the Company in France, in the United-Kingdom, in the United States. She has been offered the starring role of *Raymonda* in 2008 by the Paris Opera.

Maria Alexandrova won the Golden Mask Award for Best Dancer in 2004, and she received the title of Meritorious Artist of Russia in 2005.

In 2009 she was awarded the title of People's Artist of the Russian Federation, the highest distinction for artists in Russia.

Her subtle combination of strength and lyricism enables her to perform a large range of roles. She is the passionate and intense performer Blanca Li chose for her show "*Goddesses & Demonesses*".

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GODDESSES & *DEMONESSES*

CREATIVE TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY BLANCA LI

DANCE BLANCA LI AND MARIA ALEXANDROVA

MUSIC TAO GUTIERREZ

SET DESIGN PIERRE ATTRAIT

VIDEO CHARLES CARCOPINO

LIGHTS DESIGN CATY OLIVE

COSTUMES COURTESY OF AZZEDINE ALAÏA, JEAN-PAUL GAULTIER,
STELLA MCCARTNEY AND SOPHIE THÉALLET

HAIR DESIGN JOHN NOLLET

ACCESSORIES ERIK HALLEY



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