

Monaco-Matin

Monaco Dance Forum: Alonzo King.... Royal!

*Dec 11, 2009
Monte Carlo, Monaco*

A glorious opening night at the Monaco Dance Forum on Friday!

Alonzo King's ballets were truly worthy of a king. The evening featured two performances: *Dust and Light* and *Scheherazade*, the second a world premiere. The title of the first ballet, *Dust and Light*, describes in itself the magic of Alonzo King's dancers. They belong to the realm of the sun as well as that of the earth. Their bodies are animated by telluric forces, as if volcanic lava flowed through them; at the same time, they possess an aerial grace.

In *Scheherazade* they celebrated the enchanting love of the Princess from 1,001 Nights. Often, "oriental" dances are often performed opulent costumes. Here the bodies were barely covered with a veil, but there was an immense piece of creased fabric that floated above the stage like a cloud, creating textured and rippled reflections. The famous original score by Rimsky-Korsakov was reconceived with Eastern and Middle Eastern musical instruments.

Everything was extremely beautiful: it was an evening of celebration, and an evening of dreams at the Monaco Dance Forum!

-André Peyregne