

Oļegs Barskovs, *Lēdijas Makbetas monologs* 1983. gada 24. martā.
Lēdija Makbeta – Lita Beiris

Pēteris Čaikovskis, *Gulbju ezers* 1984. gada 17. septembrī. Odeta/
Odilija – Inese Dumpe, Zigfrīds – Genādijs Gorbaņovs, Rotbarts –
Vladimirs Lukjanovs

Fikrets Amirovs, *Tūkstoš un viena nakts* 1985. gada 21. martā.
Šeherezāde – Zita Errs, Nurida – Lora Ļubčenko, Šahs Rijārs –
Genādijs Gorbaņovs, Vergs – Aivars Leimanis

ALEKSANDRS LEMBERGS: CHOREOGRAPHIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF HIS OWN MEMORIES AND EVIDENCES OF CONTEMPORARIES

Gunta Bāliņa

Summary

The creative period of Aleksandrs Lembergs (1921–1985) as choreographer (60's–80's of the 20th century) is marked by many magnificent ballet productions, popularity of Riga's ballet in the world, search for innovative dance forms in the art of ballet, development of individual style of the young dancers, as well as involvement of foreign choreographers.

The main mode of choreography expression of the ballet master in the first productions *Pāns un Sīringa* (*Pan and Syrinx*, 1963) by Oļegs Barskovs, *Pērs Gints* (*Peer Gynt*, 1966, music by Edvard Grieg), was the bodily grace and expression, preserving the basics of the classical dance.

Production of the Oļegs Barskovs' ballet *Inku zelts* (*The Inca Gold*) in 1967 was magnificent, emotional and varies in its choreographical expression, since it showed deep and profound approach of the ballet master to the selected theme. It had both, taste and stage culture, and a vast range of composite expression. The success of the play was owed due to the brilliant main actors: Marta Bilalova, Ausma Dragone, Artūrs Ēķis, Jānis Bīviņš, Atis Spura, Vladimirs Lukjanovs, etc.

The first applications of modern choreography were seen in the production of the ballet *Parīzes Dievmātes katedrāle* (*Notre Dame de Paris*) by Cezare Pugni and Riccardo Drigo in 1970. Since the time when ballet has been in the repertoire of many theatres of the world, it has been formed by many ballet masters trying to adapt the choreography to the development of the dance art. Lembergs managed to join different

choreography styles. He successfully employed multi-level stage performance.

The ballet *Carmen (Carmen-Suite)* by George Bizet/Rodion Shchedrin (1971) is one of the peaks of the choreography work of Lembergs. Under the interpretation of the ballet master the language of the classical dance synthesized with the modern dance elements, was elegant and emotional. The vast array of the Carmen role players includes Ausma Dragone, Ināra Ābele, Velta Vilciņa, Larisa Tuisova. The critics especially praised Tuisova and placed her among the best Carmen role performer of the world, accenting the classical purity, lightness and enigma of her character. *Carmen* was performed with great success in Mexico, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Switzerland, Italy, France, everywhere where Riga's ballet was visiting. The tour performance in Moscow (1979) was especially remarkable, where the role of Don José in *Carmen* was played by Māris Liepa.

Cooperation of Lembergs with the composer Arvīds Žilinskis is worth mentioning, since it produced the children's original ballets *Sprīdītis (Tom Thumb)*, in 1968, renewed in 1983) and *Lolitas brīnumputns (Lolita's Wonder Bird)*, 1979). The choreography of the plays was colourful, easy to perceive and understand, the music and the productions had a long stage life.

Under the management of Lembergs Riga's ballet experienced its greatest prosperity, both in the sense of creativity and global popularity. Since 1968 Riga's ballet has visited Hungary, Italy, Germany, France, Mexico, Nicaragua, England, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Malaysia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, etc.

Many new, talented dancers joined the ballet cast in 70's–80's: Zita Erss, Genādijs Gorbaņovs, Tatjana Jeršova, Aleksandrs Martinovs, Larisa Tuisova, Aleksandrs Rumjancevs, Lita Beiris, Viesturs Jansons, Gunta Bāliņa, Aivars Leimanis, Inese Dumpe, Zane Lieldidža, Aleksandrs Kolbins, etc., who earned prizes in international competitions and festivals.

During the period of 60's–80's Aleksandrs Lembergs produced and renewed 22 ballets and miniatures, taking Riga's ballet to the wide world and raising a whole generation of new, talented dancers.