
ID: 10838

'Adam and Eve', 1982

Ballet in 3 Acts

Composer:

Andrei Petrov

Broadcast version of the ballet by Andrei Petrov 'Creation of the World', performed by the State Concert Ensemble of the USSR, "Moscow Classical Ballet"

Conductor:

Alexei Vinogradov

Choreography:

Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilev

Script and Production:

Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilev

Production operator:

A. Tafel

Production designer:

G. Yakubovskaya

Creator:

V. Voloshin

Performers:

Stanislav Isaev Adam

Ekaterina Maximova Eve

N. Tihomirov Devil

V. Timashova Devil (female)

V. Kuraeva Angel

G. Lapina Angel

O. Struzhkina Angel

M. Vladimirov Archangels

M. Trifomov Archangels

Running time:

1:11:05

History of the ballet:

The inspiration for the ballet Adam and Eve derived from Jean Effel's painting 'La création du monde' ('The Creation of the World'). Jean Effel was a French painter and the cartoon cycle 'The Creation of the World' is considered to be his greatest work, which outlines the Creation of the World based on African folk mythology.

Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilev had combined Jean Effel's extraordinary works with the biblical tales of Adam and Eve. According to the Abrahamic religions, they were the first man and woman, portraying the 'fall of man'; as well as ultimately the complex nature of the human condition and the path to restoration.

Ballet summary:

This version of Adam and Eve is a film-ballet (TV version), filmed in 1982, starring S. Isaev and E. Maximova as the two leading roles of Adam and Eve. It is by far one of the most famous ballets produced by the choreographers, Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilev, along to the music by Andrei Petrov, 'Creation of the World' performed by the Moscow Classical Ballet.

The ballet was created in the late sixties, when Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilev found themselves on the Ministry of Culture's "black list" as choreographers, whose performances were forbidden to be shown. This edict had closed the door to the Bolshoi Theatre for both of them and rehearsals for their new ballet 'Creation of the World' had ceased.

Despite being banned from performing in Moscow, a performance was staged at the Leningrad Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the Kirov (now Mariinsky). The leading role was played by Mikhail Baryshnikov at the time.

Subsequently, the ballet has been staged 62 times around the globe. At various times in its history, the leading roles in the ballet were performed by Ekaterina Maximova, Stanislav Issaev and Vladimir Malakhov.

The final debut was staged at the Ballet Arlington Theatre (USA) in February 2004. The performance was produced based on two phases of satirical drawings of the famous French artist Jean Effel —‘Creation of the World’ and ‘The Romance of Adam and Eve’ and is based on the biblical story of Adam and Eve. The ballet, "Creation of the World", is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the most frequently staged performance.

*Plot summary: (this is my own added bit, taken partly from Wikipedia's *La création du monde* page where it talks about the form of the ballet – I have adapted their titles whilst watching and interpreting the ballet's concepts).*

- I. Chaos before creation – the first segment of the ballet portrays the unbalanced state of nature, before serenity is established.
- II. The slowly lifting darkness, the beginning of creation – in this section we explore the creation of nature and beasts; a light begins to emerge out of the darkness.
- III. Man and woman created – the creation of man and woman is complete and a new order is established.
- IV. The desire of man and woman – this is one of the most significant parts of the ballet, where the inherent gluttony and passion of man is explored.
- V. The man and woman kiss – the coda brings all the segments to the conclusion of perpetual retribution.