

Press release / May 2011

Summer exhibition "Divine inspirations"

The art of costume

from 7 July to 31 August 2011
Grand-Théâtre – Bordeaux - France



For the 3rd consecutive year, the Opera National de Bordeaux is organizing a major summer exhibition to give local people, as well as French and international tourists, the opportunity to enjoy extraordinary tours of this architectural masterpiece.

Following the spotlight on theatrical technicians and the presentation of the secrets of the stage and wings, the exhibition,

entitled "Divine inspirations", which will run from 7 July to 31 August, will be entirely devoted to the **art of theatrical costume**. This exhibition, designed by Giulio Achilli, technical and production director of the Opera National de Bordeaux, whose career has been associated with the leading Italian opera houses (Rome, Milan, Verona, Genoa, etc.), will feature nearly 300 costumes, showcased on 3 floors of the Grand-Theatre.

Giulio Achilli, who designed the layout with all the elegant clarity of a theatre production, gives us a guided tour of the exhibition:

[In the lobby, visitors will be welcomed by a lovely exhibit: "**fashion designers and the stage**" presenting superb dresses and rare pieces created by fashion designers for various theatrical productions, on loan from the Musée du costume de scène (stage costume museum) in Moulin. In the same area, we present fantastic lace art and fabrics embroidered by the Vermont couture house, including some designs worn by Catherine of Russia.



At the top of the great staircases, the "**ballet costumes**" exhibit will turn the Lalande foyer into a "suspended library", featuring long and short tutus.

The grey foyer gallery, on the theme of "**great painters and costumes**", will be devoted to artists, including Picasso, who designed costumes for the theatre. The highlight of this section is the curtain from "*Parade*", decorated with a monkey climbing a ladder, a sailor, a winged horse, and a harlequin. Over forty costumes will be presented in this section.

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Opera National de Bordeaux: Thierry Fouquet, director

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The main foyer, with its gilded columns and Bohemian crystal chandeliers, will be a veritable "forest of costumes", providing a vast backdrop for designs from the costume workshops at the Opera National de Bordeaux.

The red foyer will take on a bluish ambience for a vertical presentation of "the colourful world of operetta" while the "secrets of costume-making" will be revealed in the adjoining white foyer. Drawings and videos made in the workshops will show the daily life of the seamstresses, as well as explaining how costumes are cut out and

assembled, how fabrics and ballet slippers are dyed, how embroidery and precious stones are applied, how masks are made, etc.

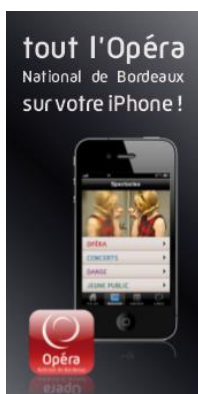
"The little wardrobe master/mistress" offers an interactive presentation for children. Apprentice wardrobe masters and mistresses will be able to dress large dolls in the spirit of a period chosen from drawings, using the dresses, bodices, collars, waistcoats, etc. provided.

A mock-up of a dressing room, with costumes on their stands, will give visitors the feel of a show in progress. The touring trunks will be opened to show how these delicate creations are transported and the wardrobe mistresses will explain their tips for taking care of the costumes so that they are always impeccable when they arrive on stage.

This exhibition has been made possible by loans from opera houses abroad and will be open from Monday to Saturday, 12.00 - 18.30, until 31 August.



2010 archive photo



Prices: full price: 5 € - concessions: 3 € - groups: 3 € (over 10 people)
 free for children under 12 accompanied by adults
 Prices for guided tours organized by the Tourist Information Office: full price: 9.50 €
 concessions: 8.50 €

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www.opera-bordeaux.com