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[Press Room](#)



Images of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (pictured above performing *Swan Lake*, photo by Sascha Vaughan) are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY CELEBRATES
40 YEARS OF
LES BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO
MARCH 3–4, 2017**

Residency events on the UC Berkeley campus include a Character Transformation Demonstration, *Dying Swan* Community Dance Class, and Post-performance Talk

Berkeley, January 27, 2017 — Cal Performances welcomes back the singular male ballet company, **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, for three performances in Zellerbach Hall, March 3–4, 2017. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo return to Berkeley to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their first appearance at Cal Performances. To celebrate this milestone the company will perform newer productions of two works—*Swan Lake (Act II)* and *Don Quixote*—that it first presented at its

Zellerbach Hall debut on October 14, 1976, plus a scene from *La Esmeralda*. Widely praised for superb ballet technique that matches their expert comic timing, and for taking ballet history seriously even as they relish mocking the genre's conventions, the 16 male members of the company dance delicate female roles *en pointe* and *en travesti*, with outrageous faux-Russian stage names to match.

Swan Lake, Act II is the company's signature work, with music by Tchaikovsky and choreography affectionately satirizing Lev Ivanov's 1895 staging for the Mariinsky Ballet. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo's version features expert mime choreography, a corps of swans with hairy chests visible above their tutus, and a healthy dose of slapstick. *Don Quixote* is a parody of the 19th-century Russian classic with choreography after Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky, featuring romance, intrigue, lively ensemble sections, and the famous *pas de deux*, a milestone role for so many famed Russian ballerinas. *La Esmeralda*, a three-act ballet based on Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris*, tells the story of the hopeless love of the hunchback Quasimodo for the gypsy girl Esmeralda. The dancers perform the Pas de Six, a scene during the second act of the ballet, in which the heartbroken Esmeralda laments while being consoled by her friends.

This year, the Critic's Circle National Dance Awards in the UK have nominated Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo for the Outstanding Company award, and dancer Chase Johnsey for Best Male Dancer and Outstanding Male Performance, the first time a male dancer has been nominated in a ballerina role. The company is also the subject of a forthcoming documentary by Bobbi Jo Hart (*I Am Not a Rock Star, She Got Game*) entitled *Rebels On Pointe*, which will receive its world premiere at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on Friday, February 3.

Several residency events are planned on the UC Berkeley campus in conjunction with the company's visit. Dancers from Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo will share the process and rituals of transformation into their ballerina personae at a Character Transformation Demonstration on Thursday, March 2 at 6pm in the Durham Studio Theater, in cooperation with the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies. The program is free and open to the public. In addition, members of the company will host a *Dying Swan* Community Dance Class on Saturday, March 4 at 10am in the Hearst Gymnasium; participation is \$5. Pre-registration is recommended for the Character Transformation Demonstration and required for the Community Dance Class, through

calperformances.org. A post-performance talk with company artistic director Tory Dobrin will take place following the performance on Friday, March 3; free and open to ticketholders.

About the Artists

[Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo](http://calperformances.org) is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of ballet and modern dance repertoire. The comedy is achieved by exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance. The fact that men dance all the parts—heavy bodies delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, romantic princesses—enhances, rather than mocks, the spirit of dance as an art form, delighting and amusing the most knowledgeable, as well as novices, in the audience. Founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts for the purpose of presenting a playful view of classical ballet in parody form and *en travesti*, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo first performed in the late-late shows in Off-Off Broadway lofts. The troupe quickly garnered critical success, and more than 40 years later has established itself as a major dance phenomenon throughout the world, appearing in more than 30 countries and 500 cities worldwide.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo on Friday, March 3 at 8pm and Saturday, March 4 at 2pm and 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change). Half-price

tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at [\(510\) 642-9988](tel:5106429988), at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Friday, March 3 at 8pm
Saturday, March 4 at 2pm and 8pm**

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Dance

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Swan Lake (Le Lac des Cygnes), Act II (music by Tchaikovsky/choreography after Lev Ivanovich Ivanov)

“Pas de Six” from *La Esmeralda* (choreography after Marius Petipa, music by Cesare Pugni)

Don Quixote (choreography after Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky, music by Ludwig Minkus)

Program: The “unspeakably talented” (*Calgary Herald*) all-male ballet troupe performs a sophisticated form of ballet parody *en travesti*, and returns to Berkeley to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the troupe’s first appearance at Cal Performances.

Post-performance Talk

Zellerbach Hall

Friday, March 3

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo artistic director Tory Dobrin gives a post-performance talk free to all ticket holders.

Tickets: \$36–\$86 (prices subject to change).

Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo Residency Activities

Character Transformation Demonstration

Durham Studio Theater

Thursday, March 2 at 6pm

Department of Theater, Dance
and Performance Studies,
UC Berkeley campus

Dancers from Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo demonstrate the process and rituals of transformation into their ballerina personae.

Tickets: Free and open to the public. Pre-registration requested by visiting calperformances.org.

***Dying Swan* Community Dance Class**
Saturday, March 4 at 10am

Hearst Gymnasium
Bancroft Way at Bowditch Street,
UC Berkeley campus

Tickets: \$5 per person. Pre-registration required by visiting calperformances.org.

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