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R A P I D R I V E R A R T S

performance

The Comedy of Ballet

Extraordinary Troupe of Dancers to Perform One-of-a-Kind Show in Asheville

BY PAM J. HECHT

After years of trying to bring Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo to Asheville, at last the timing was right. The internationally renowned dance troupe performs at the Asheville Civic Center on January 22.

"We were finally able to match our season with their busy international touring schedule," says Chall Gray, marketing director for Asheville Bravo Concerts, a non-profit organization that brings world-class music, opera, ballet and other classically-based works to Asheville.

The talented dancers of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and their brand of ballet are anything but ordinary. Since they formed in 1974, their style has met with rave reviews and sell-out crowds across the globe.

"They're in a league of their own: part high art, part campy humor," says Gray. "It's exclusive, world-class ballet but with a definite difference — it's an amazing aesthetic experience."

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, or "The Trocks," as they are affectionately called, is a company of professional male dancers performing both ballet and modern dance, including classical and original works. What makes them different is the comedy they bring to the mix, by accentuating intentional "mistakes" while parodying a variety of scenes from works like Swan Lake and Giselle, and the choreography of George Balanchine and Martha Graham, among others. (Also, picture big, strong men delicately, and expertly, balancing on their toes as swans, sprites, princesses and angst-ridden Victorian ladies.)



"The Trocks" performance of Raymonda's Wedding.

Aside from impeccable comic timing, The Trocks are also known for their brilliant dance techniques and an obvious joy in performing, making their shows accessible and enjoyable for everyone, from dance connoisseurs to neophytes.

"It's not just men in pointe shoes — these are talented, great dancers," says Gray. "It'll be a treat."



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, January 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Woke Auditorium, Asheville Civic Center.

Tickets: \$20-\$55. For tickets, go to: [www.ashevillebravoconcerts.org](http://www.ashevillebravoconcerts.org); the Asheville Civic Center Box Office, 87 Haywood Street Asheville; Ticketmaster at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; or call Asheville Bravo Concerts at (828) 225-5887.



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

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ordinary



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