

Ukrainians on Broadway



DESNA UKRAINIAN DANCERS

The DESNA Ukrainian Dance Company of Toronto, more affectionately known as the "Desna Ukrainian Dancers" first appeared on the Toronto arts scene in 1974. Since that time DESNA has undergone many changes. The collection of dancers that you will see tonight have been together for only two years.

In the summer of 1988 DESNA embarked on a tour of France where they represented Canada in the annual French Summer Festival. During the summer of 1989 DESNA performed at Metro International Caravan at Kiev Pavilion in Toronto and won the award for Best Traditional Show. Also in the fall of 1989 DESNA performed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Named after a majestic river in north-central Ukraine, DESNA sprang forth into Canadian, American and European circles perpetuating the richness and beauty of Ukrainian culture and tradition. They are proud to display the artform of dance to audiences of every ethnic background. Their dancing not only preserves Ukrainian history and folklore, but is also a valuable contribution to the Canadian mosaic.

Desna is a group of dedicated Canadians of mostly Ukrainian descent. Their performances enthusiastically present a unique repertoire of folk, classical and character dance from various regions of the Ukraine. The men exhibit Cossack vigour through their energetic leaps and kicks, while the women gracefully display their agility with spins and intricate footwork. Ornate costumes of brilliant colours and exquisite embroidery create a vibrant spectacle on stage.

Ukrainian dance is an artform which transcends all boundaries. It reflects the spirit of a proud and distinguished heritage. This is portrayed through the expressive music, song and dance of DESNA Ukrainian Dancers.

Cast



TAMARA PAWLUK- Artistic Director

Born and raised in Toronto, Tamara has had many years of formal training in both ballet and Ukrainian Dance. She studied at the Kiev Academy in Ukraine in the summer of 1980 and has attended various dance seminars across Canada. She has performed with many dance troupes as well, the most popular of which was the Ukrainian Festival Dance Company of Toronto. Tamara took on the position of Artistic Director for Desna in April of 1989.

IHOR BACZYNSKYJ

Ihor (Master of Ceremonies/comedian), a native of Toronto is best known for his hilarious improvisational routines performed as a member of "The Kozaks" during their engagement at the Ukrainian Caravan Cabaret in Toronto. This successful eight year run was instrumental in the development of Ihor's many talents which makes him a versatile and seasoned performer.

Demand for his performances throughout Canada and the United States have sparked the production of a Ukrainian entertainment video and soon-to-be released recording which will feature the best of Ihor's work.

RON CAHUTE

Ron, arranger, composer, conductor and leader of the popular band "Burya" has travelled extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, and South America. He has recorded four albums with "Burya" and two solo recordings, one of which is being distributed internationally. Ron has also worked with many other artists arranging and producing records and has co-written shows for the Odessa and Kiev pavilions of Toronto's International Caravan, Ukrainian Caravan Restaurants, and Vesnivka Dancers of Thunder Bay as well as "The Kozaks". His musical expertise and love for Ukrainian music can always be counted on to add to any production he is associated with.

KRISTINA MYCHALKIW

Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Kris has had classical vocal training at The Royal Conservatory of Music and being a member of "Nove Pokolinya", one of the most popular Ukrainian bands in North America, Kris has become recognized as a strong vocalist as well as a soloist. She has performed in various concerts in Toronto as well as having toured across the southern states with the "The Kozaks".

OREST SUSHKO

Orest, a member of the popular Ukrainian band "Bukovina Brass" has been playing the tsymbaly for several years. He was greatly influenced by his grandfather's art of making banduras and tsymbaly and further studied music for a number of years. He has played for many functions in the Toronto area including Metro International Caravan where he performed with DESNA. With his degree in Audio Engineering Orest is trying to make the public more aware of the unique instrument of the tsymbaly and to carry on that component of Ukrainian culture.

Program



PRYVIT *

A traditional Ukrainian welcome dance of bread and salt. The bread and salt are symbolic of our best wishes to you for health, wealth and prosperity.

SAILORS

choreographed by A. Baczynskyj

A lively modern adaptation of sailors celebrating their arrival in a new port.

VOCALIST - Kris Mychalkiw

TSYMBALIST - Orest Sushko

COMEDIAN - Ihor Baczynskyj

VESNIANKA *

A festive dance celebrating the arrival of spring.

INTERMISSION

UKRAINA

KARI OCHI - Billy Boyko/Lesia Lemko

DAWN PATROL *

Mounted Kuban Cossacks ride at dawn to safeguard their territory from invaders.

KUBAN *

A regimented dance of the Kuban Cossacks.

GIRLS' DANCE

As the men go off to war the young village girls dance in hopes of their safe return.

LESIA LEMKO - Kris Mychalkiw

Vorozhka

MUSICIAN PLAY ME A SONG - Orest Sushko

The village musician plays a medley of Ukrainian songs.

ZAPOROZHETZ *

A competitive show of strength, skill and swordplay.

COMEDY DANCE

choreographed by A. Baczynskyj

Three roving kozaks try to entice a young maiden on her way home from the fields.

PIGPENKA

HOPAK

choreographed by A. Baczynskyj

** choreography adapted by Andrej Baczynskyj*

(program subject to change)

**DESNA UKRAINIAN DANCE COMPANY
of TORONTO**

Hania Fil
Slavka Kobilnyk
Tamara Pawluk
Zirka Puharski
Cathy Shewchuk
Tina Marie Shewchuk
Sonya Strong

Ihor Baczynskyj
Yaro Baczynskyj
Alex Czoli
Steven Kuziw
Robert Marfei
Slawko Moroch
Taras Pawluk
Yuriy Pawluk
Steven Perozak
Bohdan Romaniw
Yuriy Tatuch
Orest Tymyk

MUSICIANS

Ron Cahute
Bill Hawryschuk
Orest Sushko

Music arranged and orchestrated by Ron Cahute

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tamara Pawluk

ASSISTANTS TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Slawko Moroch

Yuriy Pawluk

STAGE MANAGER

Zenko Baczynskyj

LIGHTING

Bohdan Moroch

SOUND

Dave McKellar

Thanks from... the Bottom of Our Soles



PROGRAM CONCEPT

Ihor Baczynskyj
Tamara Pawluk
Slavka Kobilnyk

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN

Hania Fil

EDITORS

Hania Fil
Slavka Kobilnyk

COSTUMES

J. Nahirnyj
K. Fil
M. Shewchuk
R. Moroch
K. Chodatschenko
O. Denchik

Canadian Airlines
So-Use (Toronto) Credit Union Ltd.
Ukrainian National Federation
P. Lawson Travel-Mary Mihay
G. D'Angelo Printing Company
Multi-Graphics North
BASS Ticket Outlets
Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association-Edmonton
Volya Dance Ensemble-Edmonton
Roman Brytan - Edmonton Radio
Chateau Louis