

SPELLBOUND DANCE COMPANY **ARTISTIC DIRECTION MAURO ASTOLFI**

The Spellbound Dance Company, born in 1994/1995 and founded and directed by Mauro Astolfi, represents nowadays one of the best expressions of the Italian choreography. Now the Company is considered one of the best realities of the Italian dance offer because of its unmistakable style and the excellent quality of the dancers. The Spellbound language, characterized by a free dance expression in constant experimentation and always new geometries, has charmed the audience of the most important Festivals in Italy, Spain, Croatia, Serbia, Germany, Austria, France and Thailand and it has also created a cultural factory, which has become an example and a reference inspiring point for the different young emergent choreographers.



MAURO ASTOLFI CURRICULUM

Mauro Astolfi, the artistic heart of the activity of the Spellbound dance Company, which he founded and directs, has created his style and his method starting from the combination of different expressive forms of the contemporary movement using, not in an ordinary way, all the elements that every kind of dance could give. His international education developed in Europe and in the United States, enabled him to share, in the artistic field, many and different experiences which became later the basis of his current research. Mauro's urge has always been choreography, meant as the progressive evolution of movement and its several interactions with the strict technique as well as the pure gestural expressiveness combined in a mix of energy, strength and virtuosity. All these aspects represent the basis of the success of his company: the Spellbound Dance Company, which has become in all these years an example and a point of reference for many emergent choreographers. After his experience in the Paul Taylor's young Company in the USA, the urge of the choreographic creation has led him to sign the first creations for the Jeff Roberge's Agency in the USA. When he returned to Italy, he founded in 1994 the Spellbound dance Company, creating many productions also in collaboration with other artists (Marco Schiavoni, Enzo Aronica, Luca Salvadori, Quintetto Estravagario). The most successful titles are those from 2000 onwards, year in which Vittoria Ottolenghi started a long collaboration which enabled the representation of Astolfi's

choreographies in successful “marathons” and television galas: in 2000 at Manzoni Theatre for “danza Duemila” in Pistoia, in 2001 at Todi’s Festival of Simona Marchini, “Una maratona per Verdi” always signed by Vittoria Ottolenghi and in 2003, at the same Festival, this time in a kermesse in Peter Gabriel’s honor, in the same year in Ascoli Piceno for “Notti di duelli e magia” the television Gala of Ottolenghi and Cappelli.

In 2003 Astolfi and his choreographies are guests of Vittoria Cappelli’s Gala Rai “Voci in una notte di mezza estate”, in 2004 he is always called by Vittoria Cappelli in Naples for the worldwide telecast kermesse “Emotions” dedicated to Lucio Battisti.

In 2004 he is choreographer for Kitonb Theatre Company, in 2005, for Theatreschool of Amsterdam.

In 2006 the Verdi Theatre of Pisa asks for the premiere of the new creation, “Duende”, for the Spellbound dance Company and, in the same year, the International Festival of Maiori commissions and co-produces in collaboration with “Azienda Soggiorno e Turismo” of Maiori “Carmina Burana”, which is the most requested production of the Company and it’s still performed in the most important theatres of Italy (such as Verdi Theatre of Pisa, Curci Theatre of Barletta, Italy Theatre of Rome, Masini Theatre of Faenza, Town Theatre of Carpi, Giuditta Pasta Theatre of Saronno, Borgotti Theatre of Cento, Godoni Theatre of Venice, Metropolitan Theatre of Piombino, Town Theatre of Bitonto, Town Theatre of Cormons, Town Theatre of Orvieto, Palme Theatre of Naples, Arts Theatre of Salerno Town Theatre of Latina, Town Theatre of Noto).

Astolfi’s choreographies have been represented with a huge success also in France, Croatia, Austria and Germany and they are showing in Spain, Lebanon and Rumania. In 2008 Kitonb Company commissioned him for the creation of “Carillon”, which is represented all over the world.

The success and the growing appreciation for the Artist and his Company are underlined by the two most important creations in 2008: a new creation for the Biennale of Venice, which, starting from the theme of beauty, gives the idea for the work “Don Juan” and the Picasso Foundation of Malaga (Spain), which hosts in November 2008 the European Premiere of the choreography “For Her”. In 2009, in addition to the commitment for the new production with the Spellbound Dance Company (“Punto Zero”) and the presentation of a new preparation of “Carmina Burana” at the famous international Arts Festival of Bangkok, the Balletto di Roma commissioned Astolfi for the creation of a new choreography “Libera Risonanza” premiere in Adda Danza Festival, June 2009.

In 2010 Mauro Astolfi is invited to create a new creation for Szegedi Kortárs Balett in Ungheria (premiere March 2010) immediately after the premiere of his new production for Spellbound, “The Four Seasons”, in Pisa, March 2010. In 2010 Mauro is choreographing a duo for the International Etoile Vladimir Derevianko, dancing together with Maria Cossu, principal dancer of Spellbound dance Company.

In addition to the activity of choreographer, Mauro Astolfi is constantly guest teacher in the most important international dance centres in Tokyo, Paris, New York, Zürich, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, as well as in many Italian centres. Starting from 2009 he is artistic Director of the Modern-Contemporary Department at D.A.F. (Dance Arts Faculty -international project for dance and performing arts) in Rome.

MAURO ASTOLFI/BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Mauro Astolfi studied both in Italy, London and in the United States, where he lived for many years, working both as dancer (Paul Taylor dance Company) and as choreographer (Jeff Roberge Dance Company, Szegedi Kortárs Balett). Concerning choreography, he has collaborated with many different realities, ranging from the television Gala (RAI 1, TMC) to the dance Companies (Kitonb, Essence Company, Amsterdam Theaterschool, Balletto di Roma). Today his activity is made up of teaching: in Italy he holds daily classes for professionals at D.A.F Dance Arts Faculty and also abroad such as in Zürich, London, Amsterdam, Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Stockholm, where he holds professional educational courses, and the work as Artistic Director and

Choreographer for the Spellbound Dance Company and other Italian and foreign professional realities.

THE COMPANY

Spellbound Dance Company starts its activity in 1994. Founded and directed by Mauro Astolfi, the company maintained constant since the beginning a strong urge to the choreographic research and the mix of styles, to make sure that performance can be seen as a holder of emotions, images, sounds, movements in constant evolution. The company has become a platform for new stylish experimentations, succeeding in imposing itself in few years in the Italian panorama as dynamic and striking structure both for the personal and original choreography and for the excellent skills of the dancers. The years from 2001 onwards are those of the most important productions, such as: “Camouflage”, “Quattro- il disordine delle stagioni”, “Stati Comunicanti”, “Duende”, “Carmina Burana”, “Nafas”, “Emotional Balance”. These are all productions, which have received great success from both the critics and audience in the most important Theatre and national Festival, but also in France, Serbia, Spain, Austria, Croatia, Germany. As an important result of these first 15 years of activity, the Company has been commissioned in 2008 for The Biennale of Venice, with “Don Juan”- or the flesh tree” and for the Picasso Foundation of Malaga in Spain with the choreography “For her” and also to participate in September 2009 in the Important International Arts Festival of Bangkok.

In 2010 after the new premiere of the creation “The four seasons” in Teatro Verdi, Pisa, Spellbound is invited to perform at the International Tanzmesse In Dusseldorf at the Biarritz dance Festival in France and at the Madrid and danza Festival in Spain . Since July 2009 Spellbound dance Company is represented in Austria, Switzerland, Germany by The Lab Art & Media Agency.



**“L’Espresso” 2001
of Vittoria Ottolenghi**

“I choose the Spellbound, the Company of Mauro Astolfi: an high class choreographer”.

**From “Tutto danza”
Of Raffaella Sole**

“Once in a while we can talk about dance meant as art, an art which is able to restore the holy meaning of beauty”.

THE TIMELESS LOVE OF THE MODERN CAMOUFLAGE (Giornale di Sardegna July 2005)

Of Corrado Piana

Mauro Astolfi’s new choreographic work, which was premiered yesterday in Alghero, is inspired by the homonymous short film of the Anglo-Saxon director Jonathan Hodgson. It’s charming in its interpretative intention, it’s suggestive in its expressive colour. This Astolfi’s work is precious and smart. It’s so full of intense and significant creativity, which is able to build a monumental Babel of symbols and idioms. The spectator is at the centre, he becomes interpreter and also actor of a life comedy, which is transported in sound, image and movement.

The choreography is seductive, the dancers are amazing. A gesture becomes a style, the dancers are enchanting for the technique and expressiveness.

They are authors of an impressionistic manufacture, where Love for dance becomes Psyche for audience.

They are authors of an ingenious and passionate work.

**THE SPELLBOUND DANCE COMPANY’S DANCE IS REALLY “ART DANCE”
(Corriere del Mezzogiorno, March 2007)**

Of Paola De Simone

“Carmina Burana, with musics by Carl Orff, Caracciolo and Vivaldi, deserves special attention. It’s brilliant regarding the invention and the plasticity of the contemporary body language, it’s daring for the dynamic tension between figures and the scenic-space context. It’s one of the most beautiful and intense performance which has been proposed by the Italian dance funded by the State. Mauro The movements of Astolfi’s Carmina Buranas are characterised by a rare strength.

A BEAUTIFUL FRESCO IN THE MANNER OF SPELLBOUND

The Carmina Buranas are rich in vitality and tension. Dancers are extraordinary and full of energy.

Of Danila Bruna Adami

“...Astolfi has restored the same life strength of word thanks movement, alternating the apocalyptic sounds of music with other scores. The result is an interesting work on young people. Astolfi’s choreography is without a break, it’s a continuous movement full of tension and plasticity. In order to create the stage space he can rely on an extraordinary dance group with perfect bodies and with an inexhaustible energy. The crucial element is Stefano Mazzola’s scenography rather than music: the table used like a surface where the dancers can dance, and most of all, the closet in which the last choreography takes place.

“A vain and polyhedral Don Juan” (ORG THEATRE November 2008)

of Tania Mastrangioli

“Amazing! This is the only adjective I can think of to describe the last creation of the Roman choreographer Mauro Astolfi. Don Juan or Narcissus Game for the Spellbound Dance Company, presented at the Biennale of Venice of this year and repropose at Italia Theatre in Rome until November 10th.

There’s nothing to say. An original and intelligent performance.

SPELLBOUND DANCE COMPANY

Artistic Direction Mauro Astolfi

Managing Direction Valentina Marini

Stage management and lighting designer Marco Policastro

Administrative office Noemi Massari

Choreography Assistant Beatrice Bodini

Administrative and fiscal Consultancy Maurizio Silvio, Studio Rigel

Associazione Culturale Spell Bound via Rivodutri 8 00136 Roma- Italia

www.spellboundance.com

+39 392 4854911 +39 348 9119482

The Activity of Spellbound dance Company is supported by

The Ministry of National Heritage and Culture





Carmina Burana in Bangkok

On September 29th at the Thailand Cultural Centre in Bangkok the Spellbound Dance Company, one of the most famous Italian dance companies, staged the ballet "Carmina Burana", as part of this year's International Festival of Dance & Music and under the sponsorship of the Embassy of Italy.

Directed by reputable choreographer Mauro Astolfi, the Spellbound Dance Company danced on the notes of the notable musical opera in three acts "Carmina Burana", composed by Carl Orff in 1937, and reedited on the base of the collection of lyric poetry written by wandering clerics in the XIII century.

"But this show – according to Valentina Marini, manager of the company – does not only enact Orff's well known music, because the choreography was created keeping well in mind Antonio Vivaldi and Valentino Caracciolo's amazing musical creations".

The show consists of three parts: the "clergy" part, which points out the profligacy and debauchery of the clergymen of the time; the merry part in which food, wine and sensual pleasures play the leading role of the story; the conclusion, where some of the most peculiar aspects of the second part are staged, the most important of which is insanity.

"On the whole –Valentina Marini summarizes – the show swings between a sacred dimension on one side and a mundane one on the other; it displays the different characters and nature that distinguish them".

The sacred and the mundane dimensions are brought to life by the dance and the choreography and the set design takes the main role.

"The greatest appeal of this show – the managers goes on – is precisely the interplay between set design and choreography. Set design components, like for example the wooden table, the benches and the closet, and take a complementary role to the dancers' movements and gesture; that emphasizes the dynamic tension between dancers on one side and the stage context on the other.

The result is a very captivating show. Adriana De Sanctis, former dancer and choreography assistant, points out that Mauro Astolfi, the choreography Director, succeeded in making the most of the nine dancers' strong character and personality; in doing so, he created a show with a strong sense of unity.

Tiziana Dionisio, the organizer of the Asian tour of the company, gladly stated that the public reacted in an extremely positive way. "The theatre was sold out and the rounds of applause were enthusiastic. I think – she went on – that we should offer foreign audience more chances of knowing Italian culture with a wider choice of high quality cultural activities".

At the end of the show the performers were greeted by several warm rounds of applause and by the personal tribute of His Excellency Michelangelo Pipan, Ambassador of Italy in Thailand. That was the end of a night in which the Italian culture was the centre of the stage.

