



# The Ballet of the Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka

**Artistic Director:**  
Staša Zurovac



## ▶▶ CONTACT:

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## B ▶▶ ABOUT THE

### BALLET ENSEMBLE

The Ballet of the Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka has a long history. In the first years of their existence they produced ballet acts within opera productions and the first independent ballet production was created in 1947.

▶ In the following decades, apart from hosting great Russian ballet artists Olga Orlova and Nina Kirsanova, the ensemble also hosted a number of well known Yugoslavian choreographers and ballet pedagogues (Sonja Kastl, Vesna Butorac-Blaće, Miljenko Štambuk, Drago Boldin etc.). In the seventies, famous ballet choreographer and pedagogue Norman Dixon became the artistic director of the ensemble and he produced many successful ballet productions in the ten years of his stay in Rijeka.

▶ This season's repertoire offers three productions: *Peer Gynt* (choreography by Slavko Pervan), *Four Seasons* (choreography by Vasile Solomon) and *La Sylphide* (choreography by Norman Dixon). However, since autumn 2003, Staša Zurovac has become the artistic director of the ballet ensemble that consists of around twenty dancers at present. His idea is to present contemporary dance projects. Staša Zurovac is the winner of a number of national theatre awards for dance and choreographic work. He has choreographed in Zagreb, Split and Ljubljana. He introduced his work in Covent Garden, London, with Ballet Troupe Croatia, won the first award at 5<sup>th</sup> Festival of Choreographic Miniatures in Belgrade and the second award at 17<sup>th</sup> International Choreographic Competition in Hannover.

## ▶▶ REVIEW EXTRACT

*...The Ballet Ensemble and its soloists acquired the ethereal quality of early Romantic dance style...*

*Jana Kazanceva, the wonderful protagonist with a profound sense for music, elegance in lines and seemingly unreal soundless gliding, best reflected the poetics of Dixon's choreographic approach...*

**Vijenac**



▶▶ *Peer Gynt*

