



World Premiere of The Little Prince Ballet

It is only with one's heart that one can see clearly.
 What is essential is invisible to the eye.
 (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

The World premiere of the full length ballet The Little Prince choreographed by Valeri Tchekachev, was performed by the dancers of Colegio la Esperanza July 7, 2002 at the University Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) in Tijuana, B.C.

Based on the classic novel Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupery, the two act ballet opened with a circus ballet representing fantasy of the child's mind and progressed through heavenly and dessert sequences with the corp de ballet as stars, asteroids, astronomers, roses, foxes, lamplighters and characters from the French classic. The audience was enthralled by the magic of the production, the magnificently expressive music selected by Valeri, the sets by James Hubbell and the children giving it their all.



The Rose Ballet from Act II of The Little Prince

Valeri danced the role of the Pilot, grown up Antoine, and Tatiana Tchekacheva, the role of the adult Rose. The role of the little prince was shared by Miguel Gutierrez and Francisco Javier Dueñas who danced the pas de deux with the young Rose, five year old Yessenia

Gutierrez. It's not everyday that one has an opportunity to see a ballet adapted from a French novel, choreographed by a Kirov trained Russian ballet master, and performed by Mexican children and Russian Ballerinas.

The ballet's original choreography has been created by Valeri Tchekachev, who trained along with Mikail Barishnikov at the famed Vaganova academy of the Kirov ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia and came to Tijuana with his ballerina wife Tatiana four years ago to teach at the nonprofit Colegio La Esperanza, where all 300 students ages four to thirteen study ballet along with special classes in Music, Computation, English and Plastic Arts.



Antonio Vega helps prepare scenery designed by James Hubbell for the Little Prince Ballet

.....Tchekachev feels that "With dance, I can bring the whole world to children. My class is about ballet, but it is also folklorico and the art of the body." The Russian artist has previously choreographed two other full length ballets for Tijuana, the critically acclaimed "Titanic" presented at the Centro Cultural of Tijuana in 1999 and "Don Quixote Comes to Tijuana" performed with Colegio La Esperanza students at the University (UABC) in 2000 and 2001.



Tatiana Tchekacheva teaches graduating students to waltz