LE SPECTRE DE LA ROSE

Malandain / Von Weber
A few lines by the poet Théophile Gautier inspired Jean-Louis Vaudoyer for this short ballet, created on 19th April 1911 by Tamara Karsavina and Vaslav Nijinski, in a choreography signed by Michel Fokine.

After a ball, a young girl is holding a rose in her bedroom; she is enraptured by its voluptuous scent and finally goes to sleep in an armchair. In her dreams, the spectre of the rose comes in through the window. She joins him in a magic dance before he disappears. She wakes up, feeling troubled, she looks around but can only see the rose.

A dream is essentially a window open towards all sorts of fantasies. This young girl's dream is about the ghost of a rose, a spirit full of various symbols. It means love, desire, spilled blood, when thorn-pricked, life-saving blood. A gallery of scattered images to be visited with the key of dreams.
« How often does a dance critic see something and start thinking « Oh, not this again », and then end up thinking « Wow, what an evening ! » Ballet Biarritz, debuting at the Joyce Theater recently, turned out to be just such an event. [...] In « Le Spectre de la rose », Giuseppe Chiavaro walks into The Young Girl’s boudoir (instead of the legendary leap) and mounts an attack. Chiavaro is tall, lean and handsome, and a splendid ballet dancer to his articulate feet, which allow him to take his height across the floor with an airy precision. The girl dreams, but this Spectre has other ideas – lots of pelvic articulations between the two of them. When he leaves, she is a broken doll, left to forage in a mound of piak balloons. »

■ Backstage, Phyllis Goldman, 2001

« Ballet Biarritz delivered a chic and sexy take on the legendary dance sensations of early 20th century Paris. Biarritz is a small coastal resort in the Basque country of south-west France [...] but the program he has brought to New York is anything but unformed or provincial. »

■ Newsday, Sylviane Gold, 2001