

## Universal Ballet Holds Performance of “Choonhyang”

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### [Aju Economics]

**Who are the Ballerinas that will be reincarnated as Choonhyang and Mong-ryong? Universal Ballet Holds Performance of “Choonhyang” on the 27th.**



The love of Choonhyang and Mong-ryong will be brought to life once more, through the elegant coreography of ballet.

In commemoration of their 30th anniversary, the Universal Ballet presents a spectacular and heart-warming performance of the classic Korean story, “Choonhyang.”

The ballet will be performed on the 27th and the 28th at the Sejong Cultural Center Grand Theater.

This is the third time that Korean literature is to be interpreted through ballet, after the 1986 performance of “Shimjeong” and the 2007 “Ballet Musical Shimjeong,” both of which garnered favorable reviews.

Universal Ballet Artistic Director Brian Yoo was entrusted with the choreography for “Choonhyang.” The

character is to be reinvented through a contemporary combination of tradition and modernity. Opera stage designer Il-Jin Im and costume designer Jeong-Woo Lee also collaborated on the project.

Many famous dancers are slated to appear in the production, including appearances for the first time in Korea of the much-loved ballet star couple, Hye-Min Hwang and Jae-Yong Eom. Other notable dancers include Joo-Won Kim, Konstantin Novoselov and Mi-Seon Kang and Dong-Tak Lee in the respective roles of Choonhyang and Mong-ryong.

Korean classics are to be combined together with some of Tchaikovsky’s lesser-known pieces, creating a new sound to accompany the ballet. Some of the songs to be used to express the love of Choonhyang and Mong-ryong include the “Manfred Symphony,” “Tempest” and “Tchaikovsky’s 1st Symphony,” which express the humor of Governor Byun....

[Newsis]

**'Choonhyang' Undergoes a Drastic Transformation, Upping the Global Standard for the First Time in 5 Years**



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This is the third original production of the Universal Ballet, following the 1986 performance of “Shimjeong” and the 2007 “Ballet Musical Shimjeong.”

After a world premiere in collaboration with the Go-Yang Cultural Foundation in 2007, they gave another performance in 2009.

This year’s “Choonhyang” is to be totally reinvented. Universal Ballet Artistic Director and choreographer Brian Yoo took charge of overhauling the choreography, music, set and costumes for this performance.

“If former versions of this tale focused on literal portrayals to show the beauty of Korean traditional culture, the 2014 ballet version of Choonhyang will incorporate more of a modern feel, bringing the performance to a global level,” said a representative from the Universal Ballet.

Opera stage designer Il-Jin Im and costume designer Jeong-Woo Lee collaborated on the production, which is to harmonize the modern and the traditional through the use of symbolism and metaphors.



One noteworthy aspect of the production lies in its use of Tchaikovsky’s music. Choreographer Yoo selected several of Tchaikovsky’s lesser-known pieces, and asked Korean specialist composers to combine his music with Korean classical pieces to create music that would accompany the ballet well.

Tchaikovsky’s “Manfred Symphony” and “Tempest” are to be implemented in the ballet’s Pas de Deux. His impressive “Symphony No. 1,” which expresses both humor and evil, is well suited for the character of Governor Byun.

“Choonhyang” is slated to be performed at the Royal Opera House Muscat in Oman for the April 2015 spring season. The Royal Opera House is a superb luxury theater which was opened in Oman in 2011. The Universal Ballet is also to perform “Shimjeong” at the opening festival, and has been invited to the American Ballet Theater, the Mariinsky Ballet Company and the La Scala Opera.

Many famous dancers are to appear in the production, including the much-loved ballet star couple, Hye-Min Hwang and Jae-Yong Eom in the roles of Choonhyang and Mong-ryong. Other notable dancers include Joo-Won Kim, Konstantin Novoselov, Mi-Seon Kang and Dong-Tak Lee. The TIMF Ensemble is to play the musical accompaniment, led by conductor Nikolai Kanjinsky. The performance is to be

sponsored by the Seoul Cultural Foundation and Tongil Group. The running time of the performance is 120 minutes, with a 20-minute intermission...