

NOVEMBER 2012

# Jazz from every era

The Monte Carlo Jazz Festival brings the best from yesterday, today and tomorrow



Diana Krall will present her latest, newly released opus, *Glad Rag Doll*, at the Monte Carlo Opera House on Friday 23 November

The historic venue of the Salle Garnier at the Monte Carlo Opera will be playing host to "a journey through time" in the seventh edition of Monaco's Jazz Festival. Legendary names will come head-to-head with quirky newcomers, who hope to propel the classic genre into modernity. Whether you crave fresh talent or prefer to stand by tradition, the highly-anticipated four day event has something for everyone.

As a nation that welcomes amateur and professional musicians alike to the stage of their prestigious festival, "Monaco has succeeded in recent years to become one of the highlights of the world music of the soul and heart," say the official organisers of the event.

The Principality has proven its versatility in recent years by housing jazz newcomers in its 19th century opera house. The venue "continues to welcome the biggest names in opera while staying open to original creations and the talents of tomorrow."

Its Baroque design and mosaic facades provide an apt setting for a festival which places modernity and tradition side-by-side. Audiences who gather in its intimate auditorium from the festival launch on Wednesday 21st

November should prepare for "a surprising journey between the jazz of yesterday, of today and of tomorrow."

#### Washington tribute

First on the programme is China Moses and Raphael Lemonnier, who will be opening the festival on the 21st November at 8.30 in the evening. "This is a story of a mutual passion, of a chance meeting between a singer and a pianist who, following a random car journey and a song played on the radio, decided to perform a spectacle about blues legend Dinah Washington."

China Moses, the lyricist, composer and producer of the set entitled 'This One's for Dinah', will be accompanied by skilled pianist Raphael Lemonnier. Moses' "magnetic presence, and profound, sensual voice" will perform a range of Dinah's greatest hits, as well as some original compositions.

#### Guitar magic

Headlining on the opening night will be Pino Daniele, an Italian guitarist who "plays with the borders of traditional music, of rumba of blues and of the world-wide trend of Jazz," according to Jean-René Palacio, artistic director at the SBM. This established musician has been on the jazz scene for 35 years and yet his

"unique, clear and penetrating voice" continues to move audiences with politically and socially orientated songs.

#### Ibrahim Maalouf

Another one to watch is up-and-coming trumpet player Ibrahim Maalouf, whose influences surpass his Lebanese background. "His research on the interplay of harmonies, dynamic tones and possible bridges between different styles of music have led him to create his own language."

Even his instrument does not limit him, as Maalouf is also an accomplished pianist and singer. His performance in the Salle Garnier on 24th November will demonstrate his ability "to harmoniously combine Ottoman Sufi music, classic Arabic, jazz, electro, Balkans music, Southern American sounds and even rap and heavy metal." While this may sound like an impossible task, the Jazz festival organisers promise that Ibrahim Maalouf will "touch the depths of our soul."

#### Trio and African rhythms

Among the remaining hand-picked performers are the Chick Corea Trio on Thursday 22nd November, whose electrifying set "hovers between jazz and jazz rock in a powerful piano-bass-drums formation." This act will follow Manu Katché, a jazz artist who mixes African rhythms with a classical structure. Katché has played with the biggest pop rock groups on the planet: Dire Straits, Simple Minds, The Bee Gees, Tears for Fears and countless others.

On 23rd November, the elegant Diana Krall will have the stage to herself. Krall's mesmerising vocals which convey "a delicious mystery" and "a spirit of contemplation" have had resounding success in her 20 previous albums.

By teaming up with New Talent Support Programme, the International Jazz Festivals Organisation (IJFO) is able to provide an electric combination of fresh faces and jazz legends. On behalf of SBM, Jean-René Palacio urges citizens not to miss out on this revolutionary musical event: "I invite you to experience incredible moments in the magical venue that is the Salle Garnier in the Monte Carlo Opera house."

To see the full programme of events, visit the Jazz Festival website:

www.montecarloresort.com

Isabelle Younane

# Buying art online

Respected galleries put their trust in virtual art house



Artsation.com founder and CEO Karin Srb at the Frieze Art Fair in London

As the world progressively becomes used to relying on the internet for most things in life, it is only natural that art finds its place on the worldwide web. Instead of waiting for exciting exhibitions to fill the walls of local art houses, the click of a mouse is all it takes now to view, and purchase, a big-named piece.

"Over the past few years, we have all witnessed the growing importance of eCommerce," says Karin Srb, creator of Artsation.com. "So I thought, why not take the idea of buying art online further?"

For years, Karin has been a collector of contemporary art, establishing contacts with galleries and professionals throughout the world. When she created Artsation.com one year ago, she was able to strengthen those relationships.

With no limit of wall space, online art houses effectively have a rich selection of pieces at their fingertips.

"We only cooperate with renowned galleries who

represent the best artists and the most exciting and promising newcomers. Together with these galleries our team of curators selects artists that would fit the artsation-shop and philosophy best."

Long gone are the days when people feared entering their credit card details over the internet or buying something on eBay; society is fast coming to trust online purchasing. But how do you convince someone to buy a piece of art, potentially worth thousands of euros, without the subtle selling techniques of a glass of Dom Perignon and a little nudging?

"The galleries we work with give their good name as a guarantee to the artwork. We also provide plenty of information on contemporary art and the art market. For the art collector and art lover, it is crucial to be up to date and see as many works as possible."

Artsation works with a host of exciting artists, including Lawrence Weiner, Rachel Whiteread, Christopher Wool, Not Vital, Rosemarie Trockel

David LaChapelle, Jeff Koons, Alex Katz, A.R. Penck, Sigmar Polke, Nam June Paik, Julian Opie, Olaf Nicolai, and Matt Mullican, to name but a few.

There are also plenty of newcomers in their portfolio. "Some of these artists are not very well known yet, but they have already won the trust of our partner galleries and are on their way to their first major exhibition or place in a collection," says Karin.

The Artsation team of curators is made up of professionals and selects the artists and pieces together with the galleries. Important criteria are the freshness and high quality of the works. "We also have an eye on the aspect of a potential increase in value," adds Karin.

It's been a successful first year for Artsation, who celebrated their first milestone in October.

The concept of buying art online is clearly becoming more and more popular among art lovers and collectors the world over.



Karin Srb & brother Sven Ley (Artsation partner) in their Munich office

# The Comedy Store comes to town

An Englishman, a Kiwi and a Canadian go into a French bar...

Three stand-up comics from The Comedy Store in London, unofficially dubbed Comedy's National Theatre, brought the house down at the Hopstore Irish pub in Antibes on two evenings in October.

"Self-confessed professional northerner" Paul Tonkinson presented the show to a mainly French audience on the first night, who were entranced by the electric atmosphere and the humour, though confessing they didn't understand a lot of it.

He managed to unearth some native English-speakers, including an unemployed Lisa from Lancaster as well as

three captains, who he asked: "Can't you give Lisa a job?"

Kiwi Jarred Christmas kept everyone smiling, and had the second night crowd of expats and yachties in fits of laughter, with his banter and his description of New Zealand's military role, stating that their last important engagement was in *Lord of the Rings*.

Continuing the theme, Phil Nichol from Canada explained: "War teaches Americans where other countries are." After much interaction with the audience, now shrieking with laughter, he ended the evening on guitar with a singsong: "I'm the only gay Eskimo in my tribe", going on to sing it in the style of the

Proclaimers, Elvis, Bob Dylan and other musicians.

Two hilarious nights of the best in stand-up comedy from the Piccadilly club that started in a room above a strip club in Soho in 1979 and is now a multi-national business.

#### More in November

Following the great success of the shows, The Comedy Store is coming back to the Hopstore on 13th and 14th November with Tom Stade from Canada and British comedians Jeff Innocent and Charlie Baker. With more shows planned along the Côte d'Azur in 2013, lovers of British humour are in for some seriously good nights out.

Jill Levison