



News & Events

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National Black Light Theatre of Prague Brings Fantasy to Campus March 22

SAN LUIS OBISPO – In a special engagement, The National Black Light Theatre of Prague performs their amazing “Fantasy Travellers” in the Spanos Theatre on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, with a special curtain time of 7 p.m.

“Five stars – heavenly perfection!!!” raved The Scotsman publication after witnessing the artistry of a company who has been delighting visitors to Prague and audiences across three continents for more than 15 years.

The principle behind the black light theatre stage technique relies on an optical ruse, known as “the black box trick,” which makes use of the imperfection of the human eye: one cannot distinguish black on black.

Using this concept, the National Black Light Theatre of Prague developed a new type of “stage language” -- a non-verbal, dreamlike theatrical experience that is unique and magical.

The actors dress in black, move against a black background, and are therefore invisible to the audience. Various patented mechanical devices are hidden from the spectators using this same principle and the result is that audiences “see” inanimate objects come to life.

At the beginning of the 1980’s, the National Black Light Theatre of Prague introduced a series of new elements into the black box repertoire. The careful selection of production themes allowed intensive work on the storyline, dramatic staging, and the actors’ movements.

Visual enhancements include widescreen projections, oversized puppets, black light animation, and computer generated effects. Emphasis is

placed on the visual and musical elements of the production and the precision of the special effects.

The internationally-acclaimed group is now touring with their “Fantasy Travellers” production, which is freely based on the themes of the world-famous novels “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” by Lewis Carroll and “Gulliver’s Travels” by Jonathan Swift

With “Fantasy Travellers,” the National Black Light Theatre of Prague will take audiences on a journey amongst giants and Lilliputians, dancing octopuses, singing flowers, and living chess figures. Alice will fly, shrink, and disappear, while Gulliver visits the most bizarre continents, full of unknown creatures and objects.

The show is presented by Cal Poly Arts and is recommended for Grades 4 and up.

Tickets for the performance are \$28 & \$34, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call (805) 756-2787; to order by fax: (805) 756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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