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## Le Corsaire

If it were radio, *Le Corsaire* would be called an "oldy but goody," because it is a delightful throwback filled with pleasing dances—solos, pas de deux, and ensembles. If it were cinema, *Le Corsaire* would be called a great "date flick," since it has a romantic storyline about a beautiful woman sold into a harem and rescued by handsome pirate.

As a ballet, *Le Corsaire*, based on a Lord Byron poem, is a well-crafted collection of stunning images and a pleasing sampling of technique and artistry from the corps all set to Adolphe Adams' dreamy and evocative melodies, with choice selections from other composers.



Artists of the ballet (pirates)  
Photo: Terry Shapiro

On opening night, Sharon Wehner and Alexei Tyukov performed the leading roles of Medora and Conrad. As always, Wehner's virtuosity, highlighted by a series of fouettés across the stage, was an event in itself, and Tyukov, in his Colorado Ballet premiere, showed a lot of talent that will only get better.

Asuka Sasaki is endearing as Gulnara, who risks her life to help Medora escape. Gregory Gonzales is a hoot as the Pasha.



Alexei Tyukov as Conrad and  
Sharon Wehner as Medora  
Photo: Terry Shapiro

Simon Pastukh's set and Tony Tucci's lighting design are evocative throughout, but particularly in the opening and closing scenes, when *Le Corsaire* (a swift and nimble military clipper ship) arrives in a storm with the hero and departs with the lovers sailing into a lovely

sunset. The interludes also allude to the same metaphor, thus tying the epic arc to the story's details.

*Le Corsaire* is sure to bring wonder to adults, eight-year olds, and everyone in-between. It clocks in at a brisk 1 hour and 50 minutes and runs through October 14th. 303-837-8888, 303-830-TIXS, or [www.ColoradoBallet.com](http://www.ColoradoBallet.com).

Bob Bows

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