

# Trick or Treat – Oriental Dance with Fantasy Flavour

Drumbeats from the Underworld, glittering costumes from Heaven and dancers from Distant Lands – these were the ingredients in a Halloween celebration.

The Mizmar Association, based in Turku, Finland, unleashed a horde of witches, vampires and spirits on the stage at the Youth Centre Vimma. The above-mentioned company was joined by a number of other interesting creatures while an energetic Troll introduced the evening's theme and looked after the audience during all the three Tricks.

The show was lauded for the variety of the dances as well as the choice of music: the spectators' ears were caressed by the velvet voice of Olavi Virta\*, and magical cello sounds of Apocalyptica – not to mention traditional Oriental music. Several dance styles were also in evidence as the dancers – naturally - presented Oriental dance but spiced the show also with Fusion Tribal and Couple Salsa.

After the Last Ray of the Sun had faded the grey dusk fell over the land enticing the performers of the first Trick out of their hiding places. These were the magical fairy tale creatures: the Fates controlling life threads, the Witches with their love spells, the Witch's Cat on her nightly wanderings and the fiery Gypsies.

The second Trick took the audience to the Underworld bringing before them Life's Agonies, the Valkyries and Warrior Maidens, Death and her Garden to fade away with the Awakening.

The third Trick revealed a world of opposites where Good and Evil fight each other – and perhaps manage to find harmony: blood-thirsty Vampire Ladies with their victims and ethereal Woodland Spirits made an appearance, and two Devils and an Angel made sport with each other.

The show closed with an energetic Tabla Halloween and a – literally – sweet rain on the audience. Trick *and* Treat!

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\* Mr Olavi Virta is a legendary Finnish tango singer, whose soulful voice has enchanted generations of Finnish music lovers (author's – and the translator's - comment for the benefit of a non-Finnish reader).

## Photos

Pauliina Tiainen as the Last Ray of the Sun.

The Managing Troll, Riikka Rantalaiho.

The Woodland Spirits.

Photos by Anu Toivonen.

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