

## Nikola Márová

Nikola Márová was born in Prague. She began devoting to dance at the age of six at the National Theatre Ballet preparatory school. Between 1990 and 1998 she studied at the Dance Conservatory in Prague under the tutelage of H. Vláčilová, Z. Nemcová and P. Ždichynec. During her studies, she also took up two residencies in Dresden. After graduating in 1999, she started to work at the National Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet. In 2001 she received a solo contract and since 2006 she has been a principal dancer.

Her first major artistic opportunity was Pas de trois in *Swan Lake*, followed by the lead role of Maria in *The Nutcracker*, the roles of Frederic in the production of *Little Mr Friedemann / Psycho*, Olga in *Onegin*, Raymonda in the ballet of the same name, and Bianca in *The Taming of The Shrew*. In *Americana II* she danced solo roles in *The River* and *Who Cares?*

Her virtuoso classical technique, elegance and convincing dramatic appearance predetermined her for demanding roles of the great traditional repertoire. Audiences could see her as Odette / Odile in *Swan Lake*, Raymonda and Cinderella in the ballets of the same name, Myrtha (nomination for the Thalia Award) and Giselle in the ballet *Giselle*, the Christmas Fairy in Y. Vámos's new adaptation of the ballet *The Nutcracker – A Christmas Carol*, Olga in J. Cranko's *Onegin*, the Sylph in the classical version of the ballet *La Sylphide*, "M "M" in M. Ek's *Carmen*, Sabrina in Vaculík's *Faust, Mother and Fairy* in Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Cinderella* or as Carabosse in Javier Torres's *Sleeping Beauty*. She also dances Medora in *Le Corsaire* (Pas de trois), *Grand Pas de quatre* to music by C. Pugni, in G. Balanchine's famous choreography *Tchaikovsky, Pas de deux* and *Theme and Variations*, as well as in the famous choreography by M. Fokin *The Dying Swan* to C. Saint-Saëns's music.

She has danced modern repertoire roles with the same certainty and naturalness: in Kylián's choreographies *Sinfonietta*, *Return to a Strange Land*, *Stamping Ground*, *Petite Mort*, Conny Janssen's *Álbum Familiar*, Petr Zuska's *Requiem*, *Ibbur - or A Prague Mystery*, *Among the Mountains*, *BREL – VYSOTSKY – KRYL / Solo for Three*, *D.M.J. 1953–1977*, *Maria's dream*, *A Little Extreme*, *A Little Touch Of The Last Extreme*, *Empty Title*, 1<sup>st</sup> symphony D major or William Forsythe's *In The Middle Somewhat Elevated*.

She has appeared as a guest at the National Theatre in Brno, where she has danced the lead role of Klara in *The Nutcracker* and Kitri in the ballet *Don Quixote*, at the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava (Odette / Odile in *Swan Lake*), at the State Opera Prague she has performed Cinderella in the ballet of the same name and Odette / Odile in the new version of *Swan Lake*, at the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre *Ostrava* (Aurora in the *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*) and at the Metropolitan Hall in Taiwan in the ballet *The Lady of the Camellias* (choreography: Allen Yu).

In 2002 Nikola Márová won the Philip Morris Ballet Flower Award for the best Czech ballet artist. She has been voted the most popular dancer in the Czech Republic for five successive years. In April 2008 she won the Thalia Award for her guest performances in the role of Odette/Odile (*Swan Lake*) at State Opera Prague.

She has participated in tours of Germany, Spain, Finland, Italy, Portugal, Malta, Russia, Taiwan and China.