



Sunday
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Crystal Mirror and dinner-theater magic in S'pore

How do you explain a guy who can create a chain of bubbles inside bubbles? Or even bubbles with smoke inside them?

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Correspondent/Singapore

Baffled and amazed, I watch Einstein were still alive to see it. But far from the typical seriousness of a scientist, Tom Noddy, the long-haired New Jersey-born "bubble magician" continued to stand there emitting jokes naturally with his clearest sense of humor.

At the same time, he started his audience by defying the laws of physics, doing supposedly "impossible" things with his "caerpillar", "love" or "yin-yang" bubbles. Noddy was just one of the extraordinary world-class performers who stunned the audience at Crystal Mirror.

It was an exceptional gourmet and arts experience

housed in an elegant tent featuring an elaborate French art deco interior adorned with a touch of brocade to transport you back to the bygone era of the roaring 1920s.

Originally constructed without the use of a single nail, this architectural masterpiece consists of more than 2,000 parts, from the stained glass windows, to the wooden floorboards and velvet curtains.

It is a concept that originated in the Netherlands and Belgium at the end of the 19th Century and later at music and theater festivals in the 1970s. A novelty in Asia? Indeed.

Singapore has been the first location in the continent to experience this unusual dinner-theater extravaganza, which premiered March 9 for a limited run.

Sitting with hundreds of other guests one evening the other week, I was constantly fabbergasted by the endlessly unusual, yet outstanding performances of the talented cast from numerous nations.

My favorite? That was not an easy decision to make as

they all had their own magic that left no room for any logical explanation.

Take Andreas Wosets, who made the audience speechless by blending dexterity and talent. The tall, athletic, German king of juggling obviously had a ball of a time with his various stunts, including skipping with a rope while juggling six balls.

Stupendous coordination was also shown by Russian hula hoop lady Irina Galagan, who swung her body gracefully and simultaneously had five hula hoop rings swirling beautifully, "wrapping" her slim, slender body.

As if that were not enough to make the audience hold its breath, later on Wanda and Jean Pierre Pissoneau climbed into a 2.5-meter-diameter ice rink on which they did a series of daring, jaw-dropping stunts you'd have never thought possible before.

These included spinning around at high speed with Wanda hanging onto a special hoop around her neck pulled by Jean Pierre.

The much to handle? The

thrills continued. A pleasant surprise came suddenly when the tablecloth was whipped away in a flash, to be replaced by an outburst of energy by Ukrainian eccentric, twin brothers Ilman and Slava. They entertained guests with hilarious tap dancing while clad in 1920s-style suits.

There was more, of course, as they were just a few of 10 astonishing performers that made the whole three-and-a-half-hour event fly by so quickly.

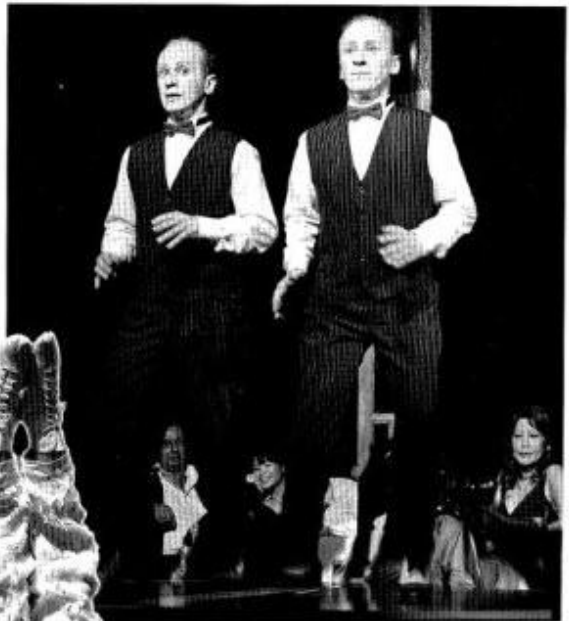
Given its dinner-theater concept, guests must go to two-star chefs Frank Mischler from France and Alfred Holzheid from Austria.

They provided a gastronomic thrill to the tongue with their exquisite four-course haute cuisine dishes with Viennese and French influences.

My compulsion could not stop gushing about the scallop and summer truffles carpaccio served with oyster jusienne, scallop bisque and pan-fried scallops with truffles.

I had the most memorable kick from the quail stuffed with foie gras. A wine lover? Here's good news.

Complementing the continental menu, guests were also welcome to enjoy a selection of rare wines. Especially reported from around the world, 100 wines and more than 40 different spirits including specialties from Alsace, France, were all provided for our ultimate dining pleasure.



JP/Robert Stockford

Dressed in classic 1920s "manier" style, identical twins Roman & Slava give a precise, fun and diverse tap dance performance on the table tops of guests.

Including all one's senses, Crystal Mirror is genuinely a multisensory feast.

Shakelin Arts Productions director Gerbrand Lamé explained, "Crystal Mirror is a magical show,

bringing together the best of European entertainment, the finest European cuisine and awe-inspiring

feats by world-class performers, all within a resplendent, old-world setting."

Do you feel like being transported back to the nostalgia of fun and fest in 1920s Europe? After Singapore, Crystal Mirror will continue to enchant people in Asia by visiting Jakarta and other Asian countries as well.

If you just can't wait, you know where to fly.

The Crystal Mirror is staged every day at the Padang, Singapore, extended through April 23. Show times are 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 8:30 p.m. Sundays.

All tickets are available at Sistic outlets and website: www.sistic.com.sg

Shopping Basket

Lancôme presents Blanc Expert

Lancôme Paris has introduced Blanc Expert Neuro White X2, a skincare product that can reduce brown freckles on the face.

Enriched with ellagic acid, the climate product can improve the whitening process and reduce pigmentation down to 70 percent.

The ellagic acid extract is taken from a the tara bush, commonly



Seeing double? They're The Caesar Twins demonstrating true power and phenomenal artistry, performing their acrobatics in the air.

At The Crystal Mirror, guests dine in the enthralling setting of a mirror tent while enjoying spectacular performances from international artists.