Shimmering costumes in soft blue, green and violet for forest nymphs designed by Christian Lacroix for the Ballet La Source on display at the Centre National du Costume de Scène.

By Jean Clavirin

Christian Lacroix's lavish and colourfully theatrical costumes designed for the Paris Opera Ballet’s productions of La Source Eau de Nil are on show in the CENTRE NATIONAL DU COSTUME DE SCENE at the Faubourg Saint-Honoré on the Right Bank in Paris.

There is much in the exhibition that will surprise - Lacroix has long been associated with his flamboyant use of colour and spectacular costumes. He has an international standing equal to that of his more famous French predecessor, the couturier Yves Saint Laurent, who also used theatrical costumes as part of his fashion creations. And like Lacroix, Saint Laurent was a graduate of the ENSA, the French national school of theatre design.

The show opens to the public at the end of October and runs until the end of March 2007.

Looking at the costumes and designs that Lacroix has created, it is not surprising to learn that in his early career he was trained as an artist and printmaker at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

Christian Lacroix's costumes are a visual extension of his fashion houses. The Ballerina costumes are a dramatic mix of theatre and haute couture. The rich fabrics, intricate embroidery and sculptural shapes of the costumes reflect the aesthetic of the costumes for the Ballet La Source.

The Exhibition

The exhibition is spread out over eight rooms and it contains more than 100 costumes and some 500 tags. Photography, film, and video documentation are used to help explain the creative process. One of the main features of the show is the wall of costumes on display in the main hall.

The costumes are arranged by theme and there are sections on: the Ballerina; the Ballet; the Theatre; the Collection; the Performers; the Collaborators; and the Media.

The Ballerina

The Ballerina costumes are the most spectacular. Lacroix's designs are characterized by their vibrant colours and intricate detailing. The costumes are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical ballet and opera, and the costumes are worn by dancers at the Paris Opera Ballet.

The Ballet

The Ballet section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the Ballets Russes. Lacroix was a part of the Ballets Russes revival in the 1980s, and his designs were inspired by the works of Diaghilev and Nijinsky.

The Theatre

The Theatre section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the French national theatre, the Opéra National de France. The costumes are designed to be worn by actors and actresses, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, velvet, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical theatre and opera, and the costumes are worn by actors at the Opéra National de France.

The Collection

The Collection section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the Lacroix fashion collection. The costumes are designed to be worn by women, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical couture and fashion, and the costumes are worn by women at the Paris Opera Ballet.

The Performers

The Performers section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the Lacroix fashion show. The costumes are designed to be worn by models, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical couture and fashion, and the costumes are worn by models at the Lacroix fashion show.

The Collaborators

The Collaborators section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the Lacroix fashion show. The costumes are designed to be worn by models, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical couture and fashion, and the costumes are worn by models at the Lacroix fashion show.

The Media

The Media section of the exhibition is dedicated to the media coverage of the Lacroix fashion show. The costumes are designed to be worn by models, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical couture and fashion, and the costumes are worn by models at the Lacroix fashion show.

The Time Machine

The Time Machine section of the exhibition is dedicated to the costumes for the Lacroix fashion show. The costumes are designed to be worn by models, and they are made from a variety of materials, including silk, satin, and lace. The designs are often inspired by classical couture and fashion, and the costumes are worn by models at the Lacroix fashion show.

Further Information

The exhibition is open from 11am to 7pm daily, except Mondays. The entrance fee is 5.50 euros for adults, 4 euros for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. For more information, please visit the website: www.lacroix.com.