

**Ballerina Boys**  
**Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**  
**Career Timeline and Fact Sheet**

Jan. 2021

About:

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (fondly referred to as the “Trocks”) is a company of professional male dancers performing the full range of the ballet and modern dance repertoire. The comedy is achieved by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance. The fact that men dance all the parts—heavy bodies delicately balancing on toes as swans, sylphs, water sprites, romantic princesses, angst-ridden Victorian ladies—enhances rather than mocks the spirit of dance as an art form, delighting and amusing the most knowledgeable, as well as novices, in the audiences.

Timeline:

-1974: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo is founded.

-Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo was **co-founded** by a group of ballet enthusiasts for the purpose of presenting a playful, entertaining view of classical ballet in parody form. The founders included **Peter Anastos, Natch Taylor, and Anthony Bassae**.

-Early performances took place in late night shows in **off-off Broadway lofts**.

-The troupe's **first show** was on **September 9, 1974** in a second-story loft on 14th Street in the Meatpacking District.

-**October 14, 1974: Arlene Croce's** favorable review and critical essay about the Trocks appears in **The New Yorker** magazine. Additional reviews and press in the New York Times and Village Voice follow. This press helps bolster the new company's reputation.

-1975-76: Notoriety grows, touring

-By mid-1975, the Trocks began receiving notoriety outside of New York. Articles and notices appear in publications such as Variety, Oui, and The London Daily Telegraph. **Richard Avedon's photo essay of the Trocks in Vogue** was published in 1975. All of which help in making the company nationally and internationally known.

-The Trocks qualify for the National Endowment for the Arts Touring Program.

-The company hires a full-time teacher and ballet mistress to oversee daily classes and rehearsals.

-The Trocks made their first extended **tours of the United States and Canada.**

1977:

-The Trocks **perform with Shirley MacLaine** in her **1977 television special "Where Do We Go From Here?"** (CBS Television)

-Tours in 1977 include (but are not limited to): Syracuse, Baltimore, Columbus, East Lansing, Columbia, Atlanta, NYC Delacorte Theatre, Albany, Reading, Philadelphia, Glassboro, Halifax, **Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver,** Los Angeles (UCLA), Azusa Santa Barbara, Berkeley, Cupertino, Albuquerque, Scottsdale.

1978:

-Tours in 1978 include (but are not limited to): Tampa, St. Petersburg, Miami, Princeton, Boston, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Detroit, Iowa City, Kalamazoo, Caracas, **São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Mexico City,** Akron, Philadelphia, Atlanta, **South Africa,** Philadelphia, Penn State, Edison, Albany, Dayton, Green Bay, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, El Camino, San Jose, Scottsdale, Salt Lake City, El Paso, Galveston, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion L.A.

1979:

-Trocks **appear on the Dick Cavett Show.**

-Tours in 1979 include (but are not limited to): Queens (NYC), Omaha, St. Louis, Skokie, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Tampa, Miami, Dallas, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, Windsor, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Denver, Fort Collins, Princeton, Halifax, East Lansing, Birmingham, Houston, Baltimore, San Rafael, Billings, Rochester, **Holland Festival, Australian Tour,** Montclair, Dance Umbrella NYC, Washington DC, West Chester, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Knoxville, Springfield, Bloomington, Berkeley, Cupertino, Santa Barbara, UCLA, Portland Seattle, Scottsdale, Tucson, Carbondale, Des Moines.

1980:

-Trocks **appear on CBS "What's My Line."**

-**Tory Dobrin, now the current Artistic Director, joins the company as a dancer.**

-Tours in 1980 include (but are not limited to): Providence, Whitewater, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Tampa, Miami, Key West, **South Africa Tour, São Paulo, Rio De Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba, Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Santiago, Mexico City, Spoleto Festival, Reggio, Emilia, Torino, Modena, Naples,** Birmingham, Carlisle, Indiana, Storrs, Halifax, **London,** Madison LaCrosse Minneapolis

BatonRouge, Denton, San Antonio, Omaha, Scottsdale, Mission Viejo, Azusa, USC Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose.

1981:

-Tours in 1981 include (but are not limited to): Detroit, **Frankfurt, Prato, Rome, Taranto, Pisa**, West Lafayette, Kingston, Upper Darby, Hartford, Philadelphia, Durham, Vero Beach, Tampa, Miami Beach, Milwaukee, Houston, **Toronto, Montreal**, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, Edmonton, **Vancouver**, Knoxville, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Columbus, Pensacola, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, College Station, Phoenix, Sacramento, Fresno, Carmel, UCLA Los Angeles, El Camino, Boston.

1982:

-Tocks **appear on CBS "World of People."**

-Tours in 1982 include (but are not limited to): **German Tour**, Detroit, Skokie, Queens (NYC), Kansas City, Boulder, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, SanDiego, Atlanta, Dallas, Albany, Japan Tour, Xenon (NYC), Ft. Lauderdale, Denver, Ft. Collins, Arcata, Santa Barbara, Claremont, El Camino, Tempe, Irvine, Philadelphia, Montclair, Detroit.

1983:

-Tocks participated in City Center Benefit (NYC).

-Tours in 1983 include (but are not limited to): Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Kitchener, Hamilton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Eugene, Portland, Fullerton, Carmel, San Francisco, Berkeley, USC Los Angeles, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Minneapolis, Fargo, Milwaukee, Desmoines, Chicago, Athens, Miami, Orlando, **Japan Tour, French Tour**, Washington D.C., Urbana, Boston, Worcester, Seattle, Salt Lake City, UCLA Los Angeles, Fullerton, Phoenix, Skokie, Detroit.

1984:

-Tocks appear on **"On Stage America."**

-Tours in 1984 include (but are not limited to): Clearwater, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Memphis, New Orleans, Dallas, Lehman (NYC), Princeton, Miami, San Francisco, Berkeley, St.Louis, Cincinnati, San Antonio, San Diego, **European Tour**, Cleveland, Japan Tour, Philadelphia, Ogdensburgh, Halifax, Queens (NYC), Detroit.

1985:

-Tocks appear on **Bravo cable TV**, NYC.

-Tours in 1985 include (but are not limited to): Sarasota, Clearwater, Louisville, Wilmington, New Haven, Storrs, Middletown, Chatham, Providence, Portland, Andover, Amherst, Marin (SanRafael), Berkeley, SanFrancisco, Salinas, San Jose, El Camino,

LasVegas, Albuquerque, Knoxville, Springfield, Monroe, Lubbock, Salt Lake City, Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Columbus, Akron, Owensboro, London, Ontario, East Lansing, Pittsburgh, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Regina, Vancouver, Calgary, Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Atlanta, Baltimore, Houston, Dallas, Springfield, **Holland Tour (Amsterdam)**, Cincinnati, Englewood, Elmira, Utica, Iowa City, Ames, Detroit.

1986:

-Trocks appear in a **Bravo TV Special**.

-Sanson Candelaria, dancer with the Trocks, died of AIDS on Oct. 30, 1986. He's one of many members of the company who will pass away during the AIDS epidemic.

-Tours in 1986 include (but are not limited to): Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, Glendora, Eugene, Seattle, Santa Rosa, Bloomington, Denver, Santa Fe, Sarasota, Clearwater, Pomona, Davenport, Minneapolis, Athens, Cleveland, Long Island University, Bronx (LehmanCenter), Easton, **Japan Tour**, Milburn, Ft. Lauderdale, Boulder, Schenectady, Burlington, Austin, Joliet, Dayton, Flint, Kalamazoo, Skokie, OklahomaCity, **Canadian Tour**, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Detroit.

1987:

-Trocks **appear in the Muppet Babies TV Show**.

-Tours in 1987 include (but are not limited to): **Canada Tour**, Clearwater, Ft. Myers, Boca Raton, Greenville, Raleigh, Pembroke, Cullowhee, Greensboro, Charlotte, Fullerton, Claremont, Englewood, San Francisco, Cupertino, San Rafael, **Virgin Island Tour**, St.Thomas, St.Croix, Stamford, **France Tour**, Queens, West Orange, Detroit.

1988:

-Trocks participate in **Holland Festival**.

-Trocks appear in **Bravo TV Special**.

-Tours in 1988 include (but are not limited to): Charleston, Louisville, Denville (Morristown), Clearwater, Seattle, Riverside, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Portland, LasVegas, Reno, Tucson, New Orleans, **France & England Tours**, Manchester, Columbus, St. Mary's (Celina), Salem (Roanoke College), Palm Desert, Tempe, Washington D.C., **Japan Tour**, **European Tour**, Brussels, Detroit.

1989:

-Trocks appear on a French TV Show.

-Tours in 1989 include (but are not limited to): Princeton, Clearwater, Poughkeepsie, Austin, Irvine, Oceanside, San Francisco, Cupertino, San Rafael, Carmel, Salt Lake City,

Ann Arbor, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Englewood, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, **Italian & Spanish Tour, French & Dutch Tour**, Toronto.

1990:

-Early 1990s are a struggle. Many dancers have died from AIDS. The company loses direction, doesn't have many tours booked.

-**Tory Dobrin** becomes the **Associate Director**.

-Trocks appear on "**Donahue**" **TV show (NBC)**, NYC.

-Tours in 1990 include (but are not limited to): Schenectady, KeyWest, Fort Myers, Miami Beach, Clearwater, Sarasota, Ft. Lauderdale, City Center (NYC), Dekalb, Skokie, **Canadian Tour**, Houghton (Calumet Theatre), **French Tour**, Knoxville, Albuquerque, Cupertino, Flint, Seattle, Tacoma, Eugene, Ashland, **Japanese Tour**.

1991:

-Tours in 1991 include (but are not limited to): Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Springfield, Wayne, Mobile, Westerville.

1992:

-**Tory Dobrin** becomes the **Artistic Director** and continues in this role today.

-Tours in 1992 include (but are not limited to): New London, Fairfax, Eau Claire, Manchester, Milburn, São Paulo, Rio De Janeiro, Night of a Thousand Gowns, Madison, Pueblo, Greeley, Denver, Ft. Collins, Tempe, **Japanese Tour, Hong Kong (China)**, Town Hall (NYC), Stamford.

1993:

-Tours in 1993 include (but are not limited to): **Buenos Aires**, Albuquerque, Tucson, Dallas, San Francisco, Seattle, Sarasota, Miami, Charlotte, North Branch, Austin, Texarkana, Galveston, Santa Barbara, Las Vegas, El Camino, Mission Viejo, **Japan Tour, Lincoln Center**, Paper Mill, Villa Montalvo.

-Participated in the following benefits: Club USA, Broadway Cares Benefit.

1994:

-Tours in 1994 include but are not limited to: Russian Tour, El Paso, Palos Verdes.

1995-present day:

-The Trocks continue to perform and tour widely both nationally and internationally.

2017:

-The troupe was profiled in the documentary film *Rebels on Pointe*.

2019:

-Trocks perform in the SummerStage (Central Park, NY) Stonewall 50th Anniversary Celebration.

### Facts:

-The Trocks have appeared in **over 34 countries and over 600 cities worldwide** since its founding in 1974.

-In the United States, the company has become a regular part of the college and university circuit in addition to regular dance presentations in cities in 49 states.

-The Trocks have participated in **dance festivals worldwide** including in Bodrum (Turkey), Bogota, Holland, Finland, San Luis Potosi, Madrid, Montreal, New York City, Paris, Lyon, Rome, Spoleto, Turin, and Vienna.

-Television appearances include the **Shirley MacLaine special "Where do we go from here?"**, the **"Dick Cavett Show," "What's My Line?," "Real People," "On-Stage America," "Muppet Babies"** with Kermit and Miss Piggy, and a **BBC omnibus special** on the world of ballet **hosted by Jennifer Saunders**. There have been solo specials on national **networks in Japan and Germany**, as well as a **French television special** with **Julia Migenes**. A documentary was filmed and aired internationally by the acclaimed British arts program, **The South Bank Show**. The company was also featured in the PBS program, **The Egg**, about arts in America, **which won an Emmy award for the director**. The Trocks additionally appeared in a segment of **Nightline** in **December 2008**.

-In **December 2008**, the Trocks appeared at the **80th anniversary Royal Variety Performance**, to aid the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund, in London, attended by members of the **British royal family**.

-The Company **continues to appear in benefits for international AIDS organizations** such as DRA (Dancers Responding to AIDS) and Classical Action in New York City, the Life Ball in Vienna, Dancers for Life in Toronto, London's Stonewall Gala, and Germany's AIDS Tanz Gala.

### Awards:

-Best classical repertoire from the prestigious Critics Circle National Dance Awards (2007) (UK)

-Theatrical Managers Award (2006) (UK)

-Positano Award (Italy), 2007 for excellence in dance.