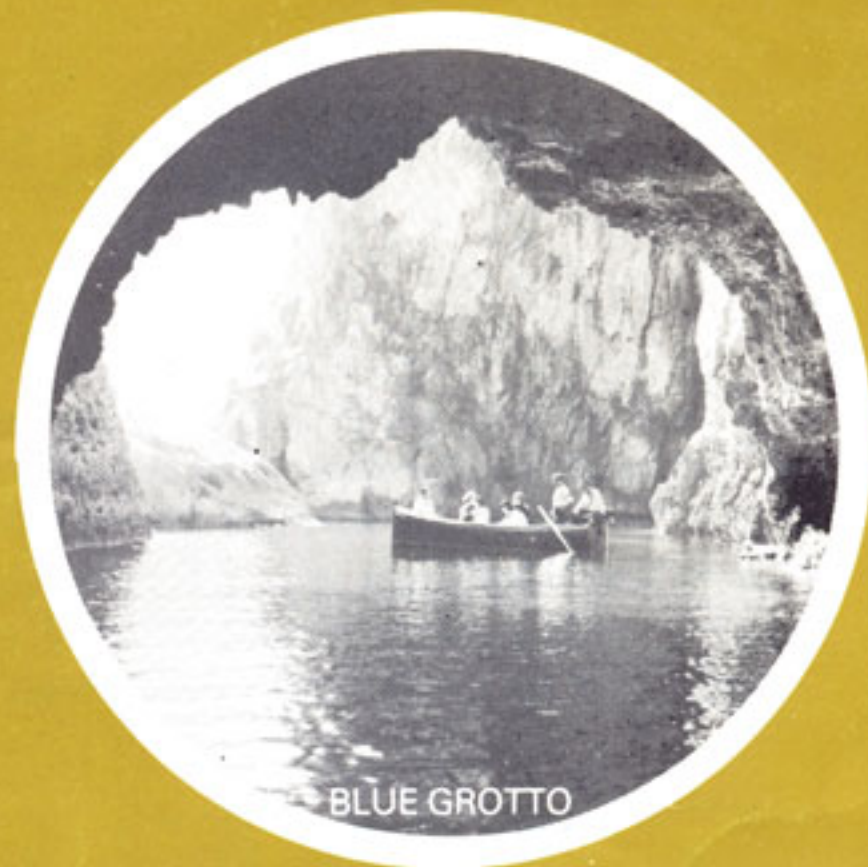


# MALTA TODAY

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BLUE GROTTA



# ARTS FESTIVAL 1982



MALGRÈ TOUT



BOLSHOI ENSEMBLE



MARIBOR TROUPE

**F**OLLOWING last year's success of modern ballet sequences performed at the Ancient Megalithic Temples of Hagar Qim, (see Malta Today – Vol. XVI No. 4) audiences in Malta were this summer regaled to a three-week Arts Festival organised by the Culture Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture.

**MALTA FEST — Malta International Arts Festival 1982 — covered most forms of artistic expression — from opera and classical ballet to rock music — with the participation of representatives from Bulgaria, England, India, Ireland, Italy, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia and Malta.**

The Festival opened with the modern ballet presentation of **Malgré Tout** by the Cooperativa Nirvana of Rome. This production achieved the same success as last year when it was launched at Hagar Qim. The Temple, a challenging site in itself, was once again involved in the production and it fitted perfectly in theme, content and evolvment as top Italian ballet performers created in dance form man's efforts to rediscover the beauty and brutality of human relationships. They danced to packed audiences on five consecutive nights.

The theme then shifted to a site below the Bastions of the old city of Mdina for the presentation of Dance Contrasts by **Maribor Jazz Ballet Troupe** from Yugoslavia and the **Kama Dev Ensemble**, from India. While the former specialise in the 'new dance' involving total body movement and combining heart, body and soul in total commitment, the latter is the foremost exponent of Indian dance in the classical tradition in which every part of the body plays an evocative part. Malta has joined the list of most European capitals where the Kama Dev Ensemble has been received with acclaim.

No less prominent in this year's Arts Festival was the **Bolshoi Classical Ballet Ensemble**. This world renowned troupe from the U.S.S.R. performed for three nights at the Republic Hall of the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta and thrilled full-house audiences with their impeccable dancing of ballet extracts from such well-known works as 'Swan Lake', 'Sleeping Beauty', 'Coppelia', 'Gizelle' and others.

Part of Malta's contribution was in the form of a choral concert by the local **Collegium Musicum** who sang Haydn's Mass in Time of War. Maltese actors also presented excerpts from Christopher Marlowe's 'The Jew of Malta'. Another drama performance was the tour de force by Irish actress **Patricia Leventon** who performed Molly Bloom's soliloquy from Ulysses by James Joyce.