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The magic of Tim Burton sublimated by the FILMharmonique Orchestra

Music Reviews Movie theater

By Malika Alaoui | December 3, 2024 | Photo: GFN Productions - TamPhotography | Original content

The FILMharmonique Orchestra, under the masterful baton of Erik Ochsner, transported the audience to a magical and gloomy universe, performing the haunting music of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* live in the grandiose Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. An immersive experience where the alliance between the genius of Danny Elfman and the intensity of the musicians offered a striking rediscovery of this Tim Burton classic.

A sublime musical tale

From the very first notes, the FILMharmonique Orchestra brought the unique world of Halloween Town to life. The precision of the strings, the power of the brass and the depth of the percussion transported the audience into the epic tale of Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king consumed by the desire to reinvent Christmas. The story, although well-known, was reinterpreted thanks to the music played live, infusing each scene with new emotion. The melancholic accents dedicated to Sally, the triumphant flights accompanying Jack, and even the dark moments embodied by Oogie Boogie, resonated with an unprecedented intensity.



The orchestra in majesty: a musical feat

Erik Ochsner, with surgical precision and palpable passion, guided the orchestra through the twists and turns of this complex score. Each musician seemed invested with a mission: to pay homage to Elfman's work while magnifying the film. The fluid transitions between the on-screen dialogue and the live music were so perfect that it became almost impossible to imagine the film in any other way. This symbiosis between images and sound brought out details often imperceptible in a conventional projection.



An experience that redefines cinema

Attending a screening with a live orchestra is not only a luxury, it is a transformation in the way we appreciate cinema. After this exceptional evening, the spectator leaves with a strange certainty: it is now difficult, almost cruel, to watch a film without the magic of a live orchestra. The nuances brought by the musicians, the energy of the room, and the mastery of the conductor transcend the original work, elevating it to the rank of a true contemporary opera.

The Nightmare Before Christmas, already a masterpiece, found a new dimension in this live performance. More than a concert, it was a celebration. An ode to the art of music and cinema, which brilliantly reminded us that some stories deserve to be experienced with all the senses alert. This performance by the FILMharmonique Orchestra was memorable, a true gem.

