

D CHARLENE DUVAL



photo : Axel HEISE

She is Paris, she is France, she is the quintessence of perfection and elegance. She is Charlene Duval ! Since her “competitors”, Marlene D. and even Josephine B. have joined their Creator, she remains unique and glamorous, the only living example of a style that most thought gone forever. Some compare her to the Eiffel Tower, because of her worldwide fame, her mind-blowing tiny waist and her never-ending figure. As the Paris monument, Charlene is a landmark, ageless and stainless.

Some vocabulary-challenged journalists described her as a “chanteuse”, which is a scandalously restrictive description of her true nature. Charlene is much more than that. An inspired singer, a fearless actress and a 4-WD dancer. This accomplished show-woman has been caressing Parisian stages, and thus the world's, for years.

THE LEGEND

1942... The ingenue Carlotta-Elena Lopez is thrown, through one of these twists of Destiny, onto the stage of the Royal Albert Hall during a Charity ball to the benefit of the French Forces exiled in London. She then realizes that show business will be her life. The young Spanish girl, born just ten years before in a suburban area of Barcelona, will start, once the war over, her conquest of the Parisian stages, her only true dream. **The 50's** will be the actual launch pad of her career. She is everywhere, on stage, on movie sets, in music halls, theatres, commercials and of course all jet-set social events. From Cannes to Deauville, nothing and nobody can resist Charlene.



Photo Aurélie Turgis



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The following decade, the 60's,

will be the "Charlene years". The tireless star of stages triumphs from one hit to the next: "Hi clams!" or "Lucky Charlene" or "Que Guapa!" in Buenos Aires (which later will be restaged on Broadway as "Cha Cha Charlene". Following one of her performance, police forces must be called to maintain order among her unleashed fans flocking on the boulevard with the unrealistic dream of a seat for her performance at the Olympia Theater. Charlene flies over twist and rock n' roll to impose her own style.

1976 ! It's "farewell to the footlights"... Charlene, slave of love for Horacio Goncalvez, the Argentinian mogul of synthetic rubber suspenders, agrees to her husband's wish to put an end to her career. She will then dedicate her entire life to raising her only child in the family hacienda. Once her last performing contracts are honoured, she leaves behind an entire generation of desperate orphans. Her husband sends emissaries throughout the entire world with the sole purpose of destroying any proof of her past glory. But... for the world's sake, husbands are not immortal...



Photo Alexis Polti

NOW REALITY



Photo Alexis Polti

The Duval legend

is the original "life work" creation of Jean-Philippe Maran. In 1987, Jean-Philippe turns seventeen, and debuts at the famous Parisian cabaret "Le Piano Zinc". After performing every night for seven years in front of a crowd of young Parisians, he is ready to breathe life into the legendary Diva. Charlene Duval has a come-back and performs again on stage after an 18 year separation from her audience.

Since then,

Charlene has regained all of her previous glory in theatres, TV studios and even the movie industry. She is the favourite guest of the Parisian jet set and performs at many charitable events.



Photo Alexis Polti



Worldwide Charlene

The pride of Paris is now known, loved, admired by an ever-growing crowd as she masters French, English, Spanish, Italian and even Brazilian. Her repertoire spans from exotic to torch songs, and she alternates old favorites with works by young composers, while daring to execute some new and breath-taking dance steps.

Alone with her pianist or accompanied by a big band, surrounded by a cast of young dancers, each of her appearances is a celebration. She manages to defy imagination with her ever glamorous costumes produced exclusively for her, by the cream of the crop of French designers ...and engineers (she needs those engineers). La Duval never cheats - her public knows it. She's the mythical, the incarnate empress : Charlene.