Jacqui lives to Love

STABLES TREATS: Jacqui Dankworth and, inset, Cara Dillon

THE STABLES

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The Stables presents another packed programme of events this week, but you will be hard pushed to find a more strikingly intimate, engaging performance among them than the one happening tomorrow evening, courtesy of **Jacqui Dankworth**.

The daughter of jazz royalty, she spent her formative years soaking up the musicality of Dame Cleo Laine and Sir John Dankworth, and has since carved out a splendid career of her own.

New album, Live To Love, may take a few people by surprise, moving as it does through jazz, soul and blues movements, but there are standards too, from the likes of Wayne Shorter and Donny Hathaway.

The media has responded warmly to the disc – a four out of five thumbs-up was afforded by The Guardian newspaper, which isn't to be sniffed at.

"I was more nervous about the live audiences than the media," Jacqui admits. "But I was speaking to someone who said that it is challenging enough, and really enjoyed it.

And besides, "It's not that different, it's just more up and modern."

Jacqui has used the opus, which was released at the end of September to revisit the Tomorrow's World theme, penned originally by her dad, and now given a new coat of musical arms, and some lyrics too. It is another chapter of sounds from an accomplished, classy singer.

"It's a track I've always loved, although the lyrics are frivolous," Jacqui says.

"He wrote it in the 60s and I like the fact that people are still listening to it now.'

> Also at The Stables this week: Four years on from the release of his debut album, **Jon Allen** and his band appear this evening.

Amy Wadge and **Pete Riley** will deliver tomorrow night on Stage 2, Steely Dan tributeees **Nearly Dan** reel in the years on the main stage on Saturday night, while **Brothers Groove** hold court on Stage 2.

Tickets to see **Alexandra Armstrong and his Band** on Monday are sold out, with standing only available for **Eric Bibb** on Tuesday.

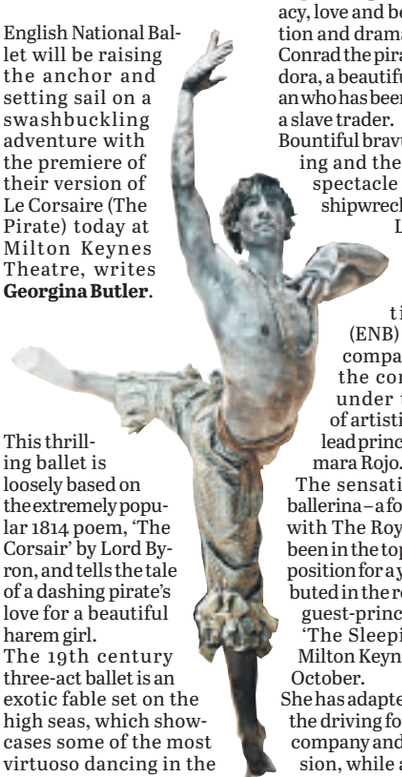
Tickets are still available to see the delightful **Cara Dillon** on Wednesday evening.

The favourable folkist with the staggeringly beautiful voice returns to the venue to perform songs from her much anticipated forthcoming album A Thousand Hearts which is set to hit the racks any time now. Mrs Sam Lakeman is a treasure. To book call 01908 280800.

Ballet premieres its swashbuckling classic

MK THEATRE

English National Ballet will be raising the anchor and setting sail on a swashbuckling adventure with the premiere of their version of Le Corsaire (The Pirate) today at Milton Keynes Theatre, writes **Georgina Butler**.



This thrilling ballet is loosely based on the extremely popular 1814 poem, 'The Corsair' by Lord Byron, and tells the tale of a dashing pirate's love for a beautiful harem girl.

The 19th century three-act ballet is an exotic fable set on the high seas, which showcases some of the most virtuoso dancing in the ballet repertoire.

Expect disguise and conspiracy, love and betrayal, abduction and dramatic rescues as Conrad the pirate falls for Medora, a beautiful young woman who has been kidnapped by a slave trader.

Bountiful bravura male dancing and the breathtaking spectacle of an onstage shipwreck make the epic Le Corsaire an unmissable production.

English National Ballet (ENB) is the first UK company to perform the complete work, under the guidance of artistic director and lead principal dancer Tamara Rojo.

The sensational Spanish ballerina – a former principal with The Royal Ballet – has been in the top management position for a year, having debuted in the role of resident-guest-principal and AD in 'The Sleeping Beauty' at Milton Keynes Theatre last October.

She has adapted well to being the driving force behind the company and its creative vision, while also attracting audiences keen to see her on stage.

Perhaps Tamara's greatest coup so far has been securing fellow former Royal Ballet principal Alina Cojocaru as a lead principal for ENB.

Born and raised in Romania, Alina announced her departure from The Royal Ballet at the end of the 2012/13 season in June.

British balletomanes were relieved to hear that the celebrated dancer would be staying in the UK when it was confirmed in July that she would join ENB – adding classical clout to the company and meaning that towns and cities nationwide will now have the opportunity to see one or both of these world-class ballerinas.

Alina makes her debut with ENB in Le Corsaire at Milton Keynes Theatre this evening at 7.30pm.

ENB's Le Corsaire runs at Milton Keynes Theatre until Saturday.

Call and book on 0844 871 7652.

> Dame Edna Everage is at MK Theatre from Wednesday – read Barry Humphries' interview with Sammy Jones on Pg8 of the Citizen.

Woody show from Company MK

After an absence of 18 months, Company MK return with a flurry this week – with performances of the musical Into the Woods.

Stephen Sondheim's work cleverly weaves fairy stories together into a bittersweet comedy of life, love and loss.

Cinderella, Jack, Little Red Riding Hood and Rapunzel wish for a lot of things – riches, freedom, festivals... and cake.

Each gets what they deserve, but in the end will that be good or bad?

"It's amazing to be able to mount a full production this year," said Company MK steering group member, Alex Taylor: "We've been blown away by people's support so far, and we're confident we'll put on a show worthy of that backing and Company MK's distinguished track record."

Performances are nightly from Wednesday, through to Saturday, October 26, at the Chrysalis Theatre in Camphill.

The curtain rises at 7.30pm and you can book your seat by calling MK 318634.

Welcome back, CMK.

Eric and Little Ern bring sunshine...

An affectionate, moving and fantastically funny homage to Morecombe and Wise will play out at Stantonbury Campus tomorrow evening.

Some of Eric and Ern's finest moments from television and stage will be recreated, alongside some spanking new material created by the performers.

'A hugely funny and touching homage,' says Likely Lad James Bolam, having enjoyed a performance himself.

Call and book on MK 324422.

Also at Stantonbury this week: Fun and feathers with Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus (Sun, 2.30pm) and the dramatic effects of war trauma play out in Woyzeck (Tues, 7.30pm).