

## YURA AND IGOR

Only son of **Nina Vyroubova**, the legendary Prima Ballerina of the **National Opera of Paris Ballet**, **Yura Kniazeff** is **Igor**'s closest and only intimate friend since childhood : born the same year, going to the same schools (*Cours La Fontaine*) and some years after, both young students in the **National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance of Paris**, **Igor** learning classical piano, and **Yura** learning classical dance. Most of the time together in Paris during school year, but also for summer holidays in Yura's small house in south of France ; it was rare to see them far from each other, always together, sharing the same dreams and having same kind of sensivity and feelings, having both the same russian origin ! but also same kind of loneliness when you study intensively and prepare yourself to a career of soloist as a classical dancer or a classical pianist.

At 18, **Yura** was admitted in the **Paris Opera Ballet** and presented **Igor** to his teachers, mostly Raymond Franchetti, Director of the Paris Opera Ballet, and also Master Yves Brioux, a very famous classical dance teacher in Paris, his famous classes attended by **Rudolph Nureev**, Cyril Athanassof, Jean Guizerix, Nanon Thibon, Georges Piletta, etc ; also, It is **Yura** who introduced **Igor** to the world of classical dance and modern ballet : after a while, not feeling happy in the « corps de ballet » of Paris Opera, **Yura Kniazeff** left the famous opera house to join the dance company of Pierre Lacotte, a wellknown french choreographer and « maître de ballet ». Unfortunately, **Yura** had to stop dancing due to an accident to his foot while dancing on stage and due to a bad surgery in Sweden from which he never recovered. He started then a career of photographer and antique dealer. **Igor**'s life orientation in work and personal life was largely due to **Yura**'s presence in Igor's existence as far as emotion and mutual feelings are concerned.