

Marc Chagall on the *Daphnis and Chloe* Ballet by Maurice Ravel – 22/12/1958

00:00:02

Marina Grey: I have no intention, of course, of introducing you to Marc Chagall. You all know that he's one of our greatest contemporary painters. If you're in Paris, Marc Chagall, it's because you wanted to live in the skin of Daphnis for a time.

00:00:17

Marc Chagall: Yes, maybe Daphnis is the one who wanted to live in my skin, and nothing less! But, at any rate, I was very pleased to come here to touch up various decorations and costumes.

00:00:31

Marina Grey: Because it's a ballet?

00:00:33

Marc Chagall: By Ravel, which we all adore, don't we?

00:00:37

Marina Grey: Why did you choose *Daphnis and Chloe* by Ravel?

00:00:40

Marc Chagall: You know, I believe it's the 25th anniversary of his death. And, like everyone, I love Ravel's music. I couldn't refuse. And I've already traveled to Greece, for my friend Tériade, Tériade the publisher. I made the book. It'll come out in a year and a half. So I accepted.

00:00:58

Marina Grey: A book of etchings.

00:00:59

Marc Chagall: Colored lithographs. So I accepted the suggestion of Hirsch, the director of the Opera House, to do these ballets. And I love, let me say it again, I love Ravel. You can't refuse.

00:01:10

Marina Grey: Since you are a poet yourself, I believe you have more or less paraphrased a famous verse, and that you find that the motions, colors, and sounds of Ravel converse with each other.

00:01:20

Marc Chagall: Yes, the longer I live, the more I see that it isn't a question of the story in there, not of literature. It's just the colors, the sonority, the music, and the movement. That's all. If we succeed, that's a good thing. If not, I don't know.

00:01:39

Marina Grey: I would like to ask you a personal question. Are you happy, Marc Chagall?

00:01:44

Marc Chagall: Oh, what a question! I'm happy when I've got a lot of work, you know? And then, I'm happy if you and everyone else is happy, and that's it. And if I work, you have to work.

**Marc Chagall on the *Daphnis and Chloe* Ballet by Maurice Ravel –
22/12/1958**

00:01:53

Marina Grey: And actually, I wanted to wish you a lot of happiness for the year 1959. I think you already have it.

00:02:00

Marc Chagall: Thank you very much.

00:02:01

Marina Grey: But I want to ask you something for our viewers. You see, here I've prepared a bottle of India ink and a brush. That's all I could find. Could you draw your wishes for them on this sheet of paper?

00:02:14

Marc Chagall: I'll try to do something. The same as usual? Wishes for the New Year?

00:02:19

Marina Grey: For the New Year, of course, a few days in advance.

00:02:20

Marc Chagall: Please excuse me if I mess it up. Yes.

00:03:07

Marina Grey: Thank you very much, Marc Chagall.