

The Lido

Le Lido, “The most famous night club in the world,” is a cabaret and burlesque show located on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France. I happened to see a show there some years ago (I was impressed!)

Founded by Joseph and Louis Clérico, Le Lido opened on June 20, 1946. Le Lido was preceded by an artificial beach in a townhouse basement in the 1920s, running as a nightclub/casino in the late night hours. In 1955, after a visit by the entertainment director of the Stardust Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, the Clérico brothers along with Donn Arden brought the Lido to the Stardust Las Vegas. This started a series of imports of Parisian cabaret shows to Las Vegas: Folies Bergère to the Tropicana, Nouvelle Eve to Hotel El Rancho Vegas and Casino de Paris to the Dunes. The Stardust edition of Le Lido closed in 1992.

Le Lido moved in 1977 to the Normandie on the Champs-Élysées. In 2006, Sodexo, the international food service company, purchased Le Lido and has invested 24 million euro into developing its current show. The Lido was closed from December 2, 2014, to April 2, 2015, while a new version of the show was prepared, developed by Franco Dragone. Each version of Le Lido is made up of 10–20 scenes and runs for about an hour and a half. Two shows are run every day of the week. A pre-show dinner, featuring a robotic orchestra, is offered with the first evening show of each day at an additional cost.

Each Le Lido show features singers and dancers, which always include the famous Bluebell Girls. A few featured dancers, showgirls and lead singers may be added. The Lido is known for its spectacular costumes featuring thousands of dollars in feathers and rhinestones, rich fabrics, and top quality furs.

The opening or "theme" scene welcomes the audience and sets the tone for the evening. It may also set the color scheme for the show and features special effects and lighting. Music may be original or a medley of current popular songs mixed with music from Broadway or Hollywood films; often the opening number is a potpourri of styles and performers may change costumes several times. Between the production numbers, specialty "vaudeville/cabaret" acts are featured, such as jugglers, acrobats or magicians. At least one scene will feature water effects – another thing the Lido is known for. The stage itself can be raised and lowered, may change back and forth into an ice rink or swimming pool, and can feature elaborate set pieces which come up from below. The closing number often features a number called "Merci Beaucoup" and usually has some particularly spectacular costumes.

Among the last of its kind, the Lido has a special place in the history of nightclubs and floorshows and continues a tradition of the "naughty but nice" opulent production shows originally started by the Folies Bergère. [h t t p s : / / en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Lido]

