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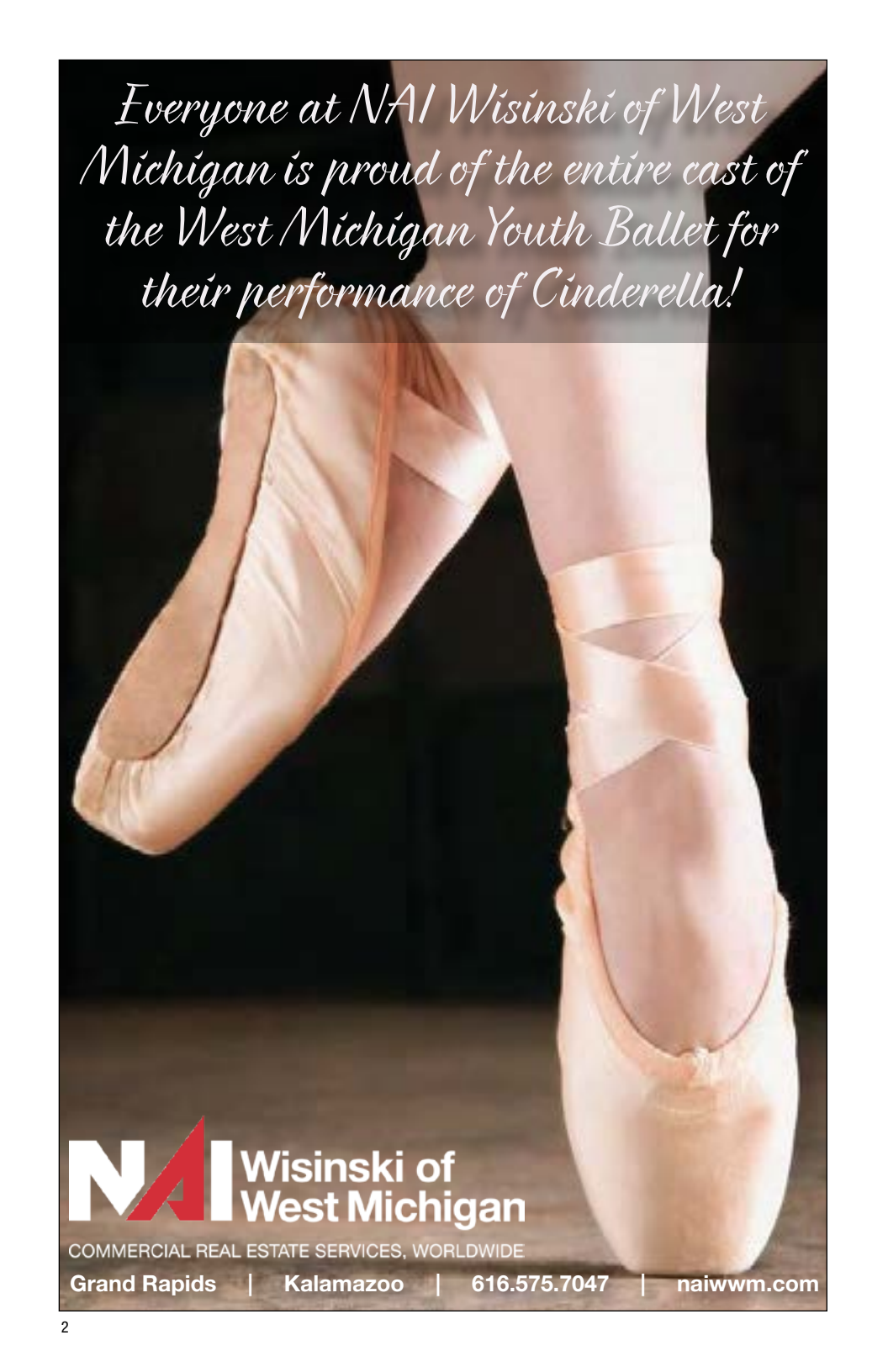
# Cinderella



April 29, 2023

1:00PM & 4:30PM  Forest Hills Fine Arts Center



A close-up photograph of a ballerina's feet in light-colored pointe shoes, with ribbons crisscrossing up the ankles. The background is dark, making the shoes stand out.

*Everyone at NAI Wisinski of West Michigan is proud of the entire cast of the West Michigan Youth Ballet for their performance of Cinderella!*

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## **DEAR PATRONS AND FAMILIES,**

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to lead these talented dancers through this production of *Cinderella*. The eager, youthful, and hard-working cast has grown throughout this spring season. Teaching the spacing, lines, steps, and bringing out the best in each dancer's performance has been a wonderful experience. Laura Berman, our guest artists, and I have discovered great joy in developing these young artists and look forward to seeing them shine on stage.

As we continue to focus on our mission to "Enrich. Inspire. Grow." we have made wonderful progress. The tedious work of learning the steps, waiting patiently for your turn, staying focused, and being present during the rehearsals, gives way to a phase of developing character, building friendships, establishing bonds, and creating respect amongst the cast. I hope each dancer is looking forward to the opportunity to perform their role.

"Toi toi toi" to all of the amazing dancers! I wish to personally thank all the families that provide amazing support and give their time and talents each week to make this performance great.

Your Director,

*Stephen Sanford*



### **STEPHEN SANFORD - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Stephen started his training at Southhold Dance Theater in South Bend, Indiana. He then went on to North Carolina School of the Arts where he trained under Melissa Hayden, Duncan Noble, and Warren Conover. He later went to Ballet Chicago Studio Company and was mentored by Dan Duell and Patricia Blair. Stephen has attended numerous summer courses including School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Hartford Ballet. Stephen has had a strong performing career with the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. He joined in 2001 and has been the lead man in many productions. As principal dancer, he has had the opportunity to work with famous choreographers from all over the world such as Mario Radacovsky, Kirk Peterson, and Olivier Wevers to name a few. Stephen has performed as a guest artist for New York Theater Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Geiger Ballet, Southhold Dance Theater, and Ohio Theatre Ballet. He has been teaching ballet since 2000. He was a professor at Grand Valley State University and also taught at Grand Rapids Ballet School. He currently teaches at Ada Dance Academy, where he is part owner. Stephen is a family man with five children, Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nathan, and Lucy with his wife, Jennifer.

## WMYB BIOGRAPHIES



### Laura Schwenk-Berman - CHOREOGRAPHER

Laura Schwenk-Berman has been performing, teaching, choreographing, and staging works for over 45 years. She began her professional career dancing principal roles for the Garden State Ballet and subsequently danced with Chicago Ballet, Boston Ballet, and for seven years with the Pacific Northwest Ballet. There, she performed as a soloist with Gelsey Kirkland and Mikhail Baryshnikov and danced in *Nutcracker: The Motion Picture*. She

has toured as a guest artist throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Ms. Berman served as the Ballet Mistress, Interim Artistic Director, Associate Artistic Director, and Director of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company from 1992-2010. She conducted two capital campaigns, one to renovate the old North Star Bus Terminal into four beautiful studios and administrative offices; the second, to build the company's Peter Martin Wege Theatre and costume shop. At that time, GRB received the Governor's Arts Award for excellence and toured the Midwest and Canada, reaching an audience of over 500,000. As Director of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, she established the school's curriculum, syllabus, faculty, and performances, while placing students in ballet companies around the world. Ms. Berman has a Masters degree in Theatre from Northwestern University where she graduated with honors. Currently she works as a freelance artist, choreographing original works and staging full-length ballets, and as a guest master instructor and private coach. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the WMYB.



### HEATHER CASSADY - COSTUME DESIGNER, COSTUMER

Heather graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in Clothing and Textile Design with an emphasis in Fashion Design. She then began an 11-year career as a Costumer with the Walt Disney Company. She was the Costumer for a variety of parades and stage shows in all four of the Walt Disney World Parks and many of their resort properties. Some of her shows included the *Remember the Magic Parade*, *SpectroMagic*, *Around the World with Mickey and Minnie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book*, and several U.S. tours and conventions. This is her 18th production as a Costumer for WMYB. Heather would like to thank her husband, John, and their children John, Joshua, and Katrina for all their love and support.

*Thank you to Wardrobe Supervisors, Judy Sulka and Eva Habetinova, for your continued drive to learn the art of costume building, superior organizational skills, willingness to learn and follow through.*

*Keeping you in stitches,  
Heather Cassady*



## **THE STORY OF CINDERELLA**

Cinderella is working hard with a heavy heart and dreaming of a better life. Her ill-tempered stepsisters bicker and fight while her domineering stepmother tries to keep the peace between them. Cinderella responds to their wishes and demands patiently. A beggar woman mysteriously arrives asking for alms. The stepsisters and stepmother want to send her away, but Cinderella gives her bread. The old woman recognizes her kindness and leaves quietly.

A messenger arrives with an invitation to the royal ball. The household busily prepares as the milliner, dressmakers, dance teacher, and violinists arrive. Cinderella asks to go to the ball, but her cruel stepmother refuses.

Cinderella takes solace in her dreams, imagining she is dancing at the ball using her broom as a dance partner. The old woman reappears and reveals herself as Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. She calls upon the fairies and sprites of the four seasons, who brings gifts to Cinderella to reward her for her kind heart and prepare her for the ball. Woodland friends and the Pumpkin Prince dance for Cinderella. The Fairy Godmother transforms Cinderella's rags into a gorgeous ball gown. Before Cinderella rushes off to the ball, she is warned by the Time Lord & Numerals that she must leave before the clock strikes midnight, as the spell will be broken.

The Prince's ball is filled with beautiful dancers from across the kingdom as well as the King and Queen and Court Jesters. The Prince makes his entrance and the maidens vie for his attention, especially the stepsisters. Cinderella arrives and everyone marvels at her beauty wondering who the mysterious guest might be. The Prince is captivated by her, as the court looks on with jealousy. The Prince and Cinderella declare their love for each other, and Cinderella forgets that the hour of midnight is approaching. Despite the Fairy Godmother's warning, the clock strikes midnight as the Time Lord and the Numerals warn Cinderella. She rushes from the palace, leaving her slipper behind.

The morning after the ball, the stepsisters continue to fight, but are shocked as the Prince and his entourage arrive searching for his true love, the one who fits the slipper. The stepsisters unsuccessfully attempt to force the slipper to fit. As Cinderella is pushed aside the other slipper accidentally falls from her apron. The Prince glides his slipper onto her foot and realizes that he has found his true love. As the two are reunited, there is a festive party to celebrate.

## GUEST PERFORMERS



### JOSEPH VAN HARN

Joseph Van Harn is a dance performer and educator living in Providence, Rhode Island. Recent company credits include Deos Contemporary Ballet, Freedom Dances (RI), and Festival Ballet Providence, where he was a Company Dancer for three seasons. Joseph has performed works by accomplished choreographers such as Nicole Laliberte, Tess Sinke, Trey McIntyre, Ja Malik, Eugenia Zinovieva, and Viktor Plotnikov; and he has performed as a guest artist with dance schools and companies across the U.S., including Michigan Ballet Academy, Indiana Ballet Theatre, Ballet Kalamazoo, Franklin School of Performing Arts (MA), Northwest Arkansas Ballet Theatre, Colorado Conservatory of Dance, and Victoria Ballet Theatre (TX). An operations professional, Joseph has over five years of experience in hospitality, medical, retail, and event operations, most recently as Operations Coordinator at Vail Dance Festival (CO). Joseph received his dance training from Grand Rapids Ballet School under the direction of Attila and Mindy Mosolygo and Laura Berman, and he graduated in 2018 from the University of Oklahoma with a B.F.A. in Ballet Pedagogy and a B.A. in Professional Writing.



### DARRELL HAGGARD

Darrell Haggard is originally from Oakhurst, California, where he found his love for dance at Velocity Dance Studio at the age of 9. At age 17, he began training on scholarship at the Los Angeles Ballet Academy with Ms. Andrea Paris. Darrell performed lead roles in *Coppélia*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *A Season's Suite*; as a guest Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*; and with the Alvin Ailey American Dancer Theater performing *Memoria*. Darrell has also trained with Kee Juan Han at Washington Ballet School and performed in LABA's award winning ensembles at the YAGP ballet competition in New York. As a company member with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Darrell performed in Gerald Arpinos' *Light Rain* and George Balanchine's *Who Care's and Rubies*. He has also had original works choreographed on him, including Olivier Weavers' *The Sofa* and Annabelle Lopez-Ocha's *Dangerous Liaisons*, as well as many more. Currently freelancing in Grand Rapids, Darrell looks forward to continuing his career and is excited for new works.



## GUEST PERFORMERS



### EDNIS GOMEZ

Ednis Gomez was born in the Dominican Republic and began his training at Expresiones y Danza Soraya Gallardo at the age of 16. He studied choreography and interpretive dance in the Alicia Alonso Institute at King Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain. Ednis has been a company member at Grand Rapids Ballet since 2014 and has been teaching for The Academy of Dance Arts since 2017.



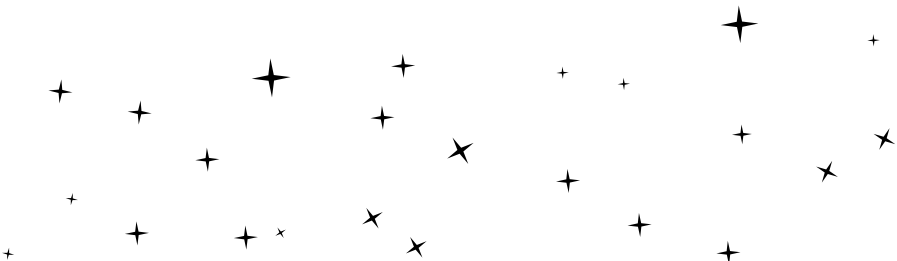
### DAMION POWERS

Damion Powers graduated from the Greenville High School in 2020. His dance training started in his adolescence with Flat River Dance Company. Mr. Powers is now an instructor and professional guest artist for the school. Some of his most recent featured roles include Snow King and Cavalier in *The Nutcracker* and the Prince in *Snow White*. He is very skilled in partnering work and is thrilled to be a back at his home dance school.



### DAKOTA ANTCLIFF

Dakota Antcliff is currently in his second year at the University of Michigan. He has been a student of the Flat River Dance Company for 12 years in their traditional ballet, contemporary, hip hop, and partnering classes. He played a part of both theatre and ballet, contributing to works such as *Carmina Burana*, *The Nutcracker*, *Snow White*, *The Addams Family*, and *Oklahoma*. After a few years focused on schooling, Dakota has decided to rejoin the dance community.



## CAST

### Act 1

Cinderella .....	Eliana Tucker [1:00], Sophia Erbentraut [4:30]
Prince .....	Joseph Van Harn
Fairy Godmother .....	Emma Diaz-Lawton [1:00], Josie Sulka [4:30]
Stepmother .....	Darrell Haggard
Stepsisters .....	Ella Yenchar & Sara Primeau [1:00], Daria Batzner & Chloe Feather [4:30]
Messenger .....	Cooper Strait
Dressmakers .....	Lennon Lassanske, Dallas Everett, Emmalyn Strait
Milliner .....	Damion Powers
Dance Teacher .....	Ednis Gomez
Violinists .....	Carter Endres, Deacon Hays
Spring Fairy .....	Josie Sulka [1:00], Emma Diaz-Lawton [4:30]
Spring Sprites .....	Livia Burnson, Molly Batzner, Molly Tate, Charlotte DeYoung
Summer Fairy .....	Katelyn Lenters
Summer Sprites .....	Aubrey Doyle, Stella Gulick, Mikayla Ismail, Leah Selleck, Claire Herpolshimer
Autumn Fairy .....	Sophia Erbentraut [1:00], Eliana Tucker [4:30]
Autumn Sprites .....	Olivia Bean, Sydney Byrne, Caylee Miller, Mikena Ismail, Skylar Hunt, Lennon Lassanske, Katherine Wisser, Katya Kval
Winter Fairy .....	Laura Frillmann
Winter Sprites .....	Sophia Bergsma, Hadley Breit, Mileah Ismail, Elaina Sanford, Katelyn Artz, Carli Mais, Chloe Feather [1:00], Daria Batzner [1:00], Sara Primeau [4:30], Ella Yenchar [4:30]
Dragonflies .....	Aubrey Doyle, Mikayla Ismail
Butterfly .....	Stella Gulick
Grasshoppers .....	Charlotte Watson, Charley Sanial
Frog .....	Nathan Sanford
Fireflies .....	Lexie White, Scarlett Noriega, Allisun Lancaster, Emily McGlinchy
Time Lord .....	Damion Powers
Numerals .....	Lynnlee Ashton, Ella DeWildt, Madison Damstra, Autumn Everett, Lauren Hendricks, Caylee Miller, Ella Rottman, Leah Selleck, Katya Kval, Shay Duffy, Abigail Carlisle, Whitney Breit
Coachman .....	Cooper Strait
Horses .....	Deacon Hays, Carter Endres



## CAST

### Act 2

King .....	Mayko Noriega
Queen.....	Jenny White
Jesters .....	Nathan Sanford, Scarlett Noriega [1:00], Ella Rottman [4:30]
Duchess .....	Mileah Ismail
Duke.....	Christopher Karhunen
Countess .....	Sophia Bergsma
Count.....	Damion Powers
Viscountess .....	Katelyn Artz
Viscount .....	Ednis Gomez
Baroness .....	Hadley Breit
Baron .....	Dakota Antcliff
Courtiers.....	Daria Batzner & Chloe Feather [1:00], Ella Yenchar & Sara Primeau [4:30]
Eligible Princesses .....	Elaina Sanford, Carli Mais, Sydney Byrne, Mikena Ismail, Katya Kval
Ballroom Ladies.....	Stella Gulick, Aubrey Doyle, Mikayla Ismail, Leah Selleck, Claire Herpolshimer, Caylee Miller
Ladies in Waiting .....	Skylar Hunt, Katherine Wisser, Dallas Everett, Emmalyn Strait, Lennon Lassanske, Whitney Breit, Shay Duffy, Olivia Bean
Pages .....	Carter Endres, Deacon Hays
Maids .....	Lexie White, Charley Sanial, Charlotte Watson
Servers.....	Ella Rottman [1:00], Scarlett Noriega [4:30], Allison Lancaster, Molly Batzner, Emily McGlinchy, Livia Burnson, Molly Tate, Charlotte DeYoung
Cousins .....	Lynnlee Ashton, Abigail Carlisle, Madison Damstra, Ella DeWildt, Lauren Hendricks, Autumn Everett



*A special thanks to our very talented Queen Jenny White and King Mayko Noriega! We appreciate your dedication and time joining the WMYB dancers at rehearsals and on stage!*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

West Michigan Youth Ballet would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for their support of our organization.



*West Michigan Youth Ballet would like to extend heartfelt appreciation for the continued generosity and support of Doug and Maria DeVos.*

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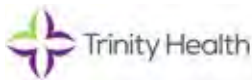
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## WMYB IN THE COMMUNITY

*WMYB is working hard to open the world of ballet to our community. We believe that everyone, young or old, should have the opportunity to enjoy this art form in one way or the other. These are some of the things that we have most recently been doing in our community. If you are interested in offering your support of these programs, please email us at [outreach@wmyb.org](mailto:outreach@wmyb.org).*



Thanks to several generous donors, WMYB has been able to bring the love of dance and the world of Ballet to the Boys & Girls Club – Steil Center. WMYB has sent instructors to teach weekly ballet technique classes to children, who may not have had the opportunity to learn dance instruction. Stephen Sanford, WMYB Artistic Director, brought several of our cast members to perform and mentor these young dancers. In the future, WMYB anticipates introducing segments of our productions as an integrated learning experience for the Club dancers, enriching their weekly dance experience. These students also had the opportunity to visit the theater to see one of our dress rehearsals.



Thanks to the generous support of Corewell Health and Trinity Health, WMYB is able to live stream performances to patients and their families, as well as to several retirement communities for their residents to enjoy.



WMYB is also partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools' Coit Elementary to introduce ballet to the students in 2nd through 5th grade. These students had the opportunity to visit WMYB's studios to learn more about what it takes to produce a full length ballet. Then 160 students were able to come to one of our dress rehearsals to see the finished production.



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*Love, Mom, Dad,  
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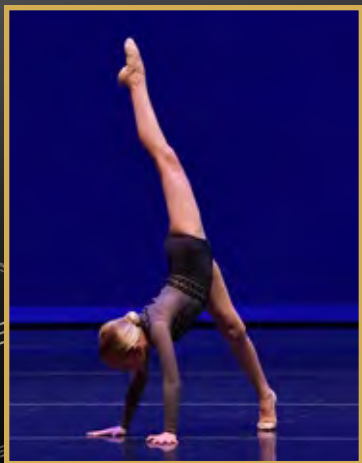
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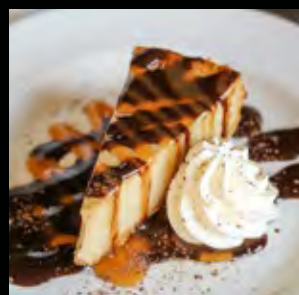
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Emma, we are so incredibly proud of  
you and the young woman you are  
becoming. You are a beautiful ballerina!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Josh, Jordan,  
Bella, and Maggie



**Congratulations Lennon  
and the WMYB dancers!**

*Love,  
Grand Paul  
& GiGi*



*Thank you*  
**SOPHIA BERGSMA**

**and the West Michigan Youth Ballet  
for bringing joy to our lives!**

**Love, Mimi and Papa**







**Congratulations to all  
the Dancers, Parents  
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season!**

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**Congratulations Josie  
and all the  
West Michigan  
Youth Ballet Dancers!**



***We are very proud of you Lexie!***



***Love,  
Dada, Mama, Lynnlee, and Laney***



## WMYB SENIORS



### DARIA BATZNER

Daria Batzner recently graduated early from Mount Pleasant High School. She has been dancing for twelve years and currently dances at the Mount Pleasant School of Dance. This is her fourth year with West Michigan Youth Ballet. This fall, she plans to study history at the University of Limerick in Ireland.



### CHLOE FEATHER

In the spring of 2010, I saw my very first ballet, WMYB's first production of *Cinderella*. I was mesmerized by the colors and flowing movements. At age four, I was just starting my journey into the world of ballet. I saw girls my age up on stage, and knew I wanted to be up on stage too. That fall, I started my very first production with WMYB. Over my 13 years with the company, I have performed a variety of roles such as Carabosse in *Sleeping Beauty* and Guardian Angel in *The Nutcracker*. This will be my fourth performance of *Cinderella* and I could not be more excited. It is so special that my final show with WMYB is the very one that inspired me to dance on stage. I am thrilled to be dancing as a Step Sister this spring. I am forever grateful for the wonderful opportunities I have been given in high school and in the ballet. After high school, I plan on attending either Michigan State or Clemson to study veterinary pathology. In addition to dance, I am also on the Byron Center varsity track team and the varsity cheer team. I would like to thank our amazing directors, costume crew, stage crew, and other parent volunteers as we could not perform without their efforts.



### LAURA FRILLMANN

Dancing at West Michigan Youth Ballet has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my entire life. I will cherish my dance family forever, and the friends that I have made here are lifelong. It is thanks to my instructors, Laura Berman, Stephen Sanford, and Judith Vandenbosch, that my dance journey has been so positive. I would like to give a special shout out to my mom, who has supported me every step of the way. I will take the life skills that I have learned at WMYB with me into the next chapter of my life.



## WMYB SENIORS



### KATELYN LENTERS

As my time dancing with WMYB comes to a close, I reflect on all it has given me. While I will miss the value of putting together a show, I will forever treasure the memories and relationships I have created while dancing with WMYB.

Dancing for so many years has given me countless opportunities to perform so many different roles and I cherish each and every one of these experiences. Each part is so unique and contributes something so different to the show. I would like to thank my friends, family, and dance instructors for always supporting me as I grew up with dance. I wouldn't have made it without the constant support I am shown. I am also extremely grateful for all the volunteers who put in countless hours into making our dreams a reality. These shows would be unachievable without the gorgeous costumes, props, boutique, and backstage help.



### ELIANA TUCKER

My first performance with West Michigan Youth Ballet was in 2013 and I have had many performances since then. I would not be the dancer I am today without WMYB. It has helped me grow as an artist and performer. I am so thankful for the memories I have made from rehearsals to the stage. I would like to thank Stephen Sanford for believing in me and offering me roles that have challenged me and pushed me to grow.

I would also like to thank my teachers and family for always helping me pursue ballet. I would like to give a special thanks to Laura Berman for her continuous support and mentorship. Whether it is last minute private lessons or advice on where to audition, she has helped me get to where I am now. I am thankful for all the time and love she has poured into me all these years. I am very excited to be performing *Cinderella* for my third and final time!

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*We are so grateful to the following studios for sharing their talented students with the West Michigan Youth Ballet for the 2022-2023 season.*

Academy of Dance Arts  
Ada Dance Academy  
Avalon School of Dance  
Ballet Etc.  
Center Stage Dance Academy  
Dance Dimensions  
Dance Revolutions

DuHadway Dance Dimensions  
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Grand Rapids Ballet School  
Hearts in Motion  
HIS Dance  
Imprint – Crystal Dolgado  
Lake Michigan Dance Academy

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Spotlight Dance Academy  
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BALLET



*the* Nutcracker  
**AUDITIONS**



**May 13 • June 11**

11 - 12:15PM, JR Company | 12:30 - 2PM, SR Company



To register and pay  
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## WMYB DANCERS



**KATELYN ARTZ** is 14 years old and a freshman at East Grand Rapids High School. This is her third year dancing with WMYB and seventh year dancing overall. She is so thankful to be a part of this program and also so grateful to all of her current and former dance instructors for their amazing guidance.



**LYNNLEE ASHTON** is 11 years old and in 5th grade at Northern Trails. She started dancing at Academy of Dance Arts when she was three years old. This is her first performance with WMYB. She is so excited for the new teachers, friends and experiences. She would like to thank her family for all their support.



**DARIA BATZNER** is a recent graduate of Mount Pleasant High School. She has been dancing for twelve years and currently dances at the Mount Pleasant School of Dance.



**MOLLY BATZNER** is a 5th grader at Renaissance Public School Academy in Mt. Pleasant. She has been dancing since she was three and loves all types of dance. Molly is a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.



**OLIVIA BEAN** is in 7th grade at Renaissance Public School Academy in Mount Pleasant. Olivia has been dancing for nine years. She takes classes in ballet, lyrical, and tap at Mt. Pleasant School of Dance.



**SOPHIA BERGSMA** is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Lowell Middle School. She has danced at Ada Dance Academy for the past ten years and this is her sixth year with WMYB. Sophia also enjoys spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her family, friends, and dance teachers for their guidance and support.



**HADLEY BREIT** is 15 years old and a freshman at Byron Center High School. She has been dancing for seven years at HIS Dance Academy and Ada Dance Academy. This is her third spring performance with WMYB and she is super excited. She would like to thank her teachers, family, friends, and God for helping her get to where she is today.

## WMYB DANCERS



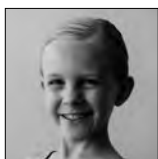
**WHITNEY BREIT** is 12 years old and in 6th grade at Byron Center Intermediate School. She has danced for four years with HIS Dance Academy as well as Ada Dance Academy. She is very excited to perform in the spring show. She would like to thank her family, teachers, friends, and God for helping her get to where she is today.



**LIVIA BURNSON** is 11 years old and a 5th grader at Forest Hills Woodland Middle School. She has been dancing for seven years at Ada Dance Academy. When Livia is not dancing, she's on the basketball court or soccer field. She would like to thank her family, dance instructors, and friends for their love, guidance, and support.



**SYDNEY BYRNE** is currently in 7th grade at Northern Hills Middle School in the Spanish immersion program. She has been dancing with WMYB since she was eight years old and would like to give a special thanks to all of her dance instructors, family, and friends for helping her accomplish her dreams as a dancer.



**ABIGAIL CARLISLE** is a 4th grade homeschooler. When not dancing, she loves crafting, camping with her grandparents, and reading American Girl doll books. She has been dancing for five years at Dance Revolutions. She thanks God for the gift of ballet, Ms. Kristi for her patience and wisdom, and her family for love and support!



**MADISON DAMSTRA** attends St. Thomas the Apostle and is in 6th grade. She has been dancing for about a year and half. She would like to give special thanks to her family.



**ELLA DEWILDT** is in 4th grade and has been in dance classes at Ada Dance Academy for the last five years. When she's not dancing, she likes to play sports and be outside. This is her 2nd performance with WMYB and she's so excited to be a part of *Cinderella*.



**CHARLOTTE DEYOUNG** is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Zeeland Quest. This is her sixth year of dance and her third spring show with WMYB. Charlotte enjoys ballet, modern, contemporary, and acro. Charlotte also likes to read, paint and draw, go skiing, and hang out with her friends. Special thanks to Mr. Stephen and to Miss Marie!

## WMYB DANCERS



**EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON** is in 8th grade at Northern Hills Middle. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for 10 years and WMYB for six. Emma has attended Boston Ballet's summer program, and is thrilled to go to Houston Ballet this year. She thanks her family and teachers, especially Laura and Stephen, for all their love and support.



**AUBREY DOYLE** is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She has been dancing since she was three, and has previously performed in *The Nutcracker*, *Coppélia*, and *Sleeping Beauty* with WMYB. She would like to thank all of her dedicated dance teachers and her family and friends for all their support.



**SHAY DUFFY** is in 7th grade at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. She's been dancing since she was three years old, exploring ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop. She wants to thank all of her dance teachers for making dance a great experience, and her parents for being very supportive.



**CARTER ENDRES** is a 7th grader at Lowell Middle School. He comes with minimal dance experience but is grateful for the opportunity to perform with the WMYB. A special thanks to his family for their continued support in all his endeavors.



**SOPHIA ERBENTRAUT** is 16 years old. She is a junior at Forest Hills Central High School. She's been dancing with WMYB since she was eight years old and plans to continue until she graduates high school. At the moment, she dances at Ada Dance Academy, Imprint, and is on FHC Varsity Dance team.



**AUTUMN EVERETT** is 10 years old and a 4th grader at Lakewood Elementary. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy for the last 7 years. This is her first year with WMYB. She enjoys kayaking and swimming. Autumn would like to thank her family, dance teachers, and friends for their love and support.



**DALLAS EVERETT** is 12 years old and a 6th grader at Lakewood Middle. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy for the last 7 years. This is her first year with WMYB. When not dancing, she enjoys time with friends and family. She thanks her family for love and support and dance teachers for helping her grow as a dancer!

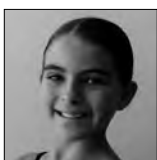
## WMYB DANCERS



**CHLOE FEATHER** is a senior at Byron Center High School. She has been with WMYB for 13 years. She is also a Varsity cheerleader and on the Varsity Track team. She has also participated in her school's theatre program, student government, and school spirit club. After high school, she plans on pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine.



**LAURA FRILLMANN** is a senior at East Grand Rapids High School. She has been dancing since she was three years old, and currently dances at Ada Dance Academy. When she is not dancing, she likes to hang out with her friends and spend time outside. She would like to thank her family and instructors for their continued support.



**STELLA GULICK** is a 5th grader at Northern Trails 5/6 school. This is her 6th show with WMYB. She is also a proud member of the competition team. She would love to thank all her coaches for the endless support during her dancing career. She'd also like to thank her parents Carola and Greg and her sister Maya for all the support!



**DEACON HAYS** is a 6th grader at Central Woodlands, and happily beginning his ballet experience this year. He is the oldest of 3 boys and enjoys swimming, biking, reading and caring for his dog Penny. He is thankful to his grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, mom, dad, and brothers for their unflinching encouragement and support.



**LAUREN HENDRICKS** is nine years old and in 4th grade at Alto Elementary. She's been dancing since she was three at Fine Arts School of Dance. When not dancing, you can find her with her dogs, crafting, or playing softball. A special thanks to all of the family making the trip from near and far to support her and her love for dance.



**CLAIRE HERPOLSHEIMER** is in 6th grade at Northern Trails. She has been performing since she was very little. She enjoys roller blading, piano, playing with her bunnies, and spending time with friends! She is so excited and honored to be a part of this show. Claire is thankful for wonderful instructors at Ada Dance and her supportive family!



**SKYLAR HUNT** is a 7th grader at St. Mary's in Spring Lake. She is on the competitive team at Spotlight Dance Academy. This is her 11th year dancing. She also loves to ride horses and participate in the Mackinac Island Honor Scouts Troop. Thanks to her family for support and dance teachers who have shaped her to be the dancer and person she is today.

## WMYB DANCERS



**MIKAYLA ISMAIL** is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Lowell Middle. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. Mikayla has been dancing for seven years. She enjoys reading, playing trumpet, the color yellow, and hanging out with her friends. Mikayla would like to thank God, her dance instructors, friends, and family for supporting her dance dreams.



**MIKENA ISMAIL** is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Lowell Middle. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. Mikena enjoys playing her flute and piccolo, sewing craft projects, and hanging out with her friends. She would like to thank God, her dance instructors, family, and friends for supporting her dream of dance.



**MILEAH ISMAIL** is 14 years old and a freshman at Lowell High School. She enjoys dancing with Ada Dance Academy. She also enjoys spending time with her friends, caring for her family's 14 pets, and playing her clarinet. Mileah would like to thank God, her dance instructors, family, and friends for supporting her passion in dancing.



**CHRISTOPHER KARHUNEN** is in 10th grade at Jenison High School. He has been dancing at Grand Rapids Ballet since for 9 years. Christopher also enjoys listening to music and hanging out with friends and family. He would like to thank his teachers and family for being so supportive of his dancing and always motivating him to work hard.



**KATYA KVAL** is a 7th grader at St. Mary's in Spring Lake. She has been dancing since age two at Spotlight Dance Academy. Katya enjoys musical theatre, basketball, and snowboarding. She would like to thank Ms. Tracey for igniting her passion to dance, Miss Natalie for instilling her love of ballet, and her family for support while she pursues her dreams.



**ALLISUN LANCASTER** is a 4th grader at Murray Lake Elementary. She has been dancing for several years and is grateful for the opportunity to dance onstage and offstage with her friends at WMYB.



**LENNON LASSANSKE** is an 8th grader at Mona Shores Middle. She has been dancing at Spotlight Dance Academy for 10 years. Lennon also enjoys running, singing, and participating in her school's musicals. Lennon would like to thank her dance teachers for inspiring her and her family for their continuous support as she pursues her dreams!



## WMYB DANCERS



**KATELYN LENTERS** is a senior at Grand Rapids Christian High. She has been dancing for 14 years and this is her 16th performance with WMYB. She also takes classes with Ada Dance Academy. She would like to thank her parents for all the support they give her, as well as her dance instructors for making dancing a reality.



**CARLI MAIS** is 14 years old and a freshman at Forest Hills Eastern High School. She has been dancing for ten years, and is a student at Ada Dance Academy. Carli is also on the FHNE Varsity dance team, and this is her 6th year with WMYB. Carli would like to thank her teachers, family, and friends, for their love and support.



**EMILY MCGLINCHY** is in the 5th grade at Forest Hills Northern Trails. She started dance at age nine and has been dancing for over a year. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. When she's not dancing she enjoys riding her bike, hanging out with friends, and playing with her dog.



**CAYLEE MILLER** is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Ionia Middle. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy in Lake Odessa since she was 3. When Caylee is not dancing, she enjoys camping, spending time with family and friends, and Starbucks. Thanks to family, friends, and dance teachers who have supported her and her dreams.



**SCARLETT NORIEGA** is a 3rd grader at Thornapple Elementary. She started dancing before she could walk, and hasn't stopped since. She is so excited to join WMYB and shine with her smile on stage!



**SARA PRIMEAU** is in 10th grade at St. Francis in Traverse City. She has been dancing for 14 years and this is her second year performing with WMYB. Sara is excited to be back with her Grand Rapids family at WMYB. She is grateful to Stephen and Laura, as well as the volunteers and board members who make these amazing performances possible.



**ELLA ROTTMAN** is in 2nd grade at Collins Elementary. She has danced since age three at Hearts in Motion and is excited for her first WMYB show! Ella enjoys her dog Teddy, gymnastics, swimming, skiing, Girl Scouts, and time with family and friends. Thanks to WMYB, her HMD teachers, family, and friends for continued love and support.

## WMYB DANCERS



**ELAINA SANFORD** is a 7th grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. She enjoys dancing with friends and her dad. She loves camping, singing, laughing with friends, and watching anime with her 4 siblings. She thanks Mr. Stephen (her dad), Ada Dance instructors, friends, and family for encouraging her throughout her dance education.



**NATE SANFORD** is a 2nd grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. He decided to give dancing a try this past summer and really enjoyed it. He loves camping, gaga ball, and jumping on their trampoline. He thanks his Ada Dance teachers Mr. Stephen and Margie Vizurraga for their instruction. He's very excited for his first show with WMYB.



**CHARLEY SANIAL** is ten years old and a 5th grader at GRCMS. She dances at Ada Dance and is on the competition team. She likes to read, build LEGOs, and cuddle her two cats and two gerbils. Thanks to her dance teachers for support and encouragement, mom for driving her every day, and the volunteers who make this happen.



**LEAH SELLECK** is 11 years old and a 5th grader at Forest Hills Northern. This is her 7th year dancing and 5th show with WMYB. Her newest interest is learning how to apply stage makeup. She thanks her friends for making it such a fun part of her week and Ms. Laura, Mr. Stephen, and the guest dancers for their instruction and support.



**COOPER STRAIT** is a 13-year-old 8th grader, who is currently being unschooled. He takes tap, jazz, and ballet. He has been dancing for three years, and his favorite style is tap. He would like to thank his big sister for always helping him, and his dog, for always being there.



**EMMALYN STRAIT** is a 16-year-old junior, currently being unschooled. She takes tap, jazz, musical theatre, ballet, and contemporary. She has been dancing for 13 years, and her favorite style is musical theatre. She would like to thank her mom for driving her all the time, and her dog for always giving the best hugs.



**JOSIE SULKA** is 9th grader at Forest Hills Northern. She dances at Ada Dance and Imprint, and this is her 6th year with WMYB. She has attended summer intensives at Boston Ballet and Ballet West in Salt Lake City, and will be competing at YAGP and UBC. She thanks her dance teachers, family, and friends for all of their love and support.

## WMYB DANCERS



**MOLLY TATE** is a 9 year old, 3rd grade homeschooler. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for two years. She is proud to be in her first show with WMYB. She enjoys playing the piano, entertaining her cats, and reading. She would like to thank God, her dance teachers, and her family for all their love and support. Hi Jenn!



**ELIANA TUCKER** is a senior at West Michigan Aviation Academy and has been dancing since first grade. She is currently training at Grand Rapids Ballet School and performs with the Grand Rapids Ballet School Junior Company. She enjoys spending time with friends and listening to music. She thanks all of her teachers for their support.



**CHARLOTTE WATSON** is a 4th grader at Thornapple Elementary. She dances at Ada Dance. Charlotte would like to thank her family, friends, and her wonderful dance teachers! When she is not dancing, she loves playing with her three younger siblings and two guinea pigs, swimming, playing piano, and reading.



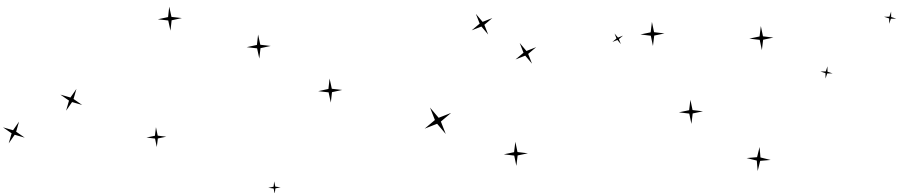
**LEXIE WHITE** is in 4th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She is excited to be in her fourth show with WMYB. She's been dancing since she could walk and attends Ada Dance. She plays golf, swims, gardens, and enjoys traveling with her family. She thanks God, her dance teachers, and family for supporting her dreams of classical ballet.



**KATHERINE WISSNER** is in 8th grade at City High Middle School. She has been dancing for eight years. When she is not dancing, she enjoys reading and spending time with friends and family. She would like to thank her dance teachers for their guidance and her parents for their love and support.



**ELLA YENCHAR** is 14 years old and in 8th grade at Ionia Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. This is her sixth year with WMYB. She has been dancing for eight years. She would like to thank her teachers Stephen and Laura for getting her this far and her family for all their support.



## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHEN SANFORD THANKS ...**

All the participating schools and teachers who provide love and care for these dancers and cultivate them to be passionate and educated about their craft. The caliber of the West Michigan Youth Ballet productions are interconnected with our partnering schools who have honed the skills of their students and instilled a respect for the art-form. We would not be able to lead these students through their choreography each week without your exemplary instruction week after week.

The entire West Michigan Youth Ballet Staff and Board of Directors. You are one of the hardest working groups that I have had the pleasure of working with. Thank you for your diligence and organization to be sure that we have some of the best choreography, costumes, sets, props, tea parties, boutiques, playbills, community outreach, and connections to name a few. The sacrifice of your time and talents are felt throughout the entire organization. I am always humbled by your willingness to say yes for the betterment of WMYB and the dancers that cross our threshold.

All the volunteers who step up each week to lend a hand while the students are dancing in the studios. Thank you for understanding the importance of participation with the children's interests at heart and being willing to give of your time, talents, and treasure. Our productions would not be possible without all of your hours of giving back to these dancers and the West Michigan Youth Ballet.

*Sincerely, Stephen*


## **WMYB BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANKS ...**

West Michigan Youth Ballet Board of Directors would like to add a special thank you to Laura Berman and Stephen Sanford. The two of you have spent countless hours along with your team to deliver a beautiful production. Your leadership, support, and love for the dancers is what makes West Michigan Youth Ballet such a wonderful experience for all. Thank you for taking time away from your families to help grow ours! We appreciate you both and look forward to what the future holds.



## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

*Kari Erbentraut will forever remain in our hearts as an inspiration to answer the call for volunteering. She gave wholeheartedly of her time, talent, and support to the families of West Michigan Youth Ballet. We will always be grateful.*



## SPECIAL THANKS

*Thank you to the following businesses for their donations and support!*



**WMYB is very appreciative of the businesses that support us through their advertisements and donations. Please patronize those businesses in this playbill who have so generously given back to their local youth. *Thank you!***



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### OUR MISSION

To provide young people with the opportunity to prepare and present to the public full-length ballets under the direction of professional choreographers.

To enhance the skills that these young people have received through the study of ballet at their respective academies by learning all that is involved in the preparation of a ballet performance.

To encourage young people to consider a career in dance and assist them in progress toward this goal, either with a professional goal or by studying dance at the university level.

### ***Help Us Continue To Make A Difference!***

Your donation will directly support the professional level experience for our young artists in our community. All and any donations are greatly appreciated!

#### TO DONATE

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