

E NUTCRACKER

December 3-4 • 1:00 & 4:30_{PM} Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, Grand Rapids

> December 17 • 3:00_{PM} Frauenthal Center, Muskegon



DEAR PATRONS AND FAMILIES,

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

As artists, we strive for excellence. We create truth, beauty, and goodness in our chosen medium. 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.

As we focus on our mission to "Inspire. Enrich. Grow." we have made wonderful progress. I can't help but feel a sense of newness as we step out onto the stage. "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.

GUEST PERFORMERS

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.

FRED DAVIS



Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Chattanooga, TN, Mr. Davis received a full scholarship with Van Cura Conservatory. After graduation, Fredrick was given a full scholarship with Joffrey Ballet School in New York to continue his training for four years.

After his training, he joined The Roxey Ballet, dancing in the role of The Moor in *Othello* and Lead Parents in *Carnival of the Animals*. Mr. Davis was given the opportunity to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Arthur Mitchell. He was then was promoted as a company member by

Virginia Johnson, dancing numerous roles, such as The Pas de Deux in *Agon*, The Male Duet in *Ulysses*, Dove in *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven*, and The Pas de Deux from Alvin Ailey's *Lark Ascending*. Fredrick has been a guest artist as well a principal dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem, a guest artist for Ballet Tucson, San Jose Dance Theatre, Connecticut Ballet, New Orleans Ballet Theatre, and New Jersey Ballet Company, a guest artist choreographer for Neville Dance Theatre, and is currently with the American Midwest Ballet. He has danced at the Kennedy Center in DC, and was a U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, Honduras, Bahamas, St. Thomas, Turkey, Israel, Italy, Jacob's Pillow, and Austria.

Mr. Davis is featured in a documentary from WTCI-PBS Production from Chattanooga, TN *From the Streets to the Stage: The Journey of Fredrick Davis* that made its world premiere on his Proclamation day, September 21, 2015, based on his childhood growing up in the streets to transcend to have a professional career in dance. The documentary also made its international debut in the UK and received an Emmy at the 31st Midsouth Regional Awards in Nashville, TN January 2017. He is currently the President Founder/Artistic Director of Tennessee Dance Theatre in Chattanooga, TN.

GUEST PERFORMERS

WOLFGANG GOLUSKA



Wolfgang Goluska is a senior at Grand Valley State University where he majors in dance. He has trained in many forms of dance, but has primarily focused on ballet. He is from Okemos and has trained and performed with several studios and companies around the Lansing area such as Children's Ballet Theater and Greater Lansing Ballet Company. He has also performed with studios on the west side of the state, performing with West Michigan Youth Ballet several times before. With these studios, he has had the pleasure of performing roles such as the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, Don Quixote in *Don*

Quixote, Porter in *Dracula* and the Knave of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland.* Over the summers, he has had the pleasure of training with North East Academy of Dance, Cincinnati Ballet, Grand Rapids Ballet, and New York Dance Project in their respective summer intensives. He hopes to join a professional dance company some day, and is currently working hard at GVSU, as well as guest dancing with local companies to further his exposure and training.

WILLIAM SCHUTTE



William is so excited to be joining West Michigan Youth Ballet for *The Nutcracker!* He has performed both nationally and internationally in several musicals. Since moving to Grand Rapids, he has choreographed for both Circle Theatre and Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. William has been most recently seen in *Elf The Musical* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. He is the owner of Kicks Dancewear, and a proud sponsor of West Michigan Youth Ballet.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MOTHER GINGERS!

Micah Beals, Meredith TerHarr, Allison Woodside, Pat Kalahar, Shelley Irwin

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.

JODY JAGLOWSKI - CHOREOGRAPHER



A Grand Rapids native, Jody spent the majority of her early ballet education with former Joffrey artists Charthel Arthur and Robert Estner. Her professional career was launched with San Jose Cleveland Ballet. During these years, she performed at Chautacqua and on *The Drew Carey Show.* Jody originated solos in *The Dying Swan* and *Marilyn*, both choreographed by Dennis Nahat. She was blessed to work with ballet greats such as John Clifford, Donald MacKayle, Fleming Flindt, and Rudy VanDanzig. After leaving Ballet San Jose, Jody joined Ballet Tucson for three seasons as a dancer,

teacher, and choreographer, and was coached by former ABT principals Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner. Since her return to Michigan, she has taught locally for competitive and non-competitive students and studios. She has acted as Ballet Mistress and choreographer for both the West Michigan Youth Ballet and Michigan Ballet Academy. In 2016, Jody completed Pre-primary through Level 5 of the American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum. In 2017, she completed her certification with Levels 6, 7, and Partnering. This past summer she received her Progressing Ballet Technique certification as well. She has guest taught at GVSU, Grand Rapids Ballet, Ballet Kalamazoo, Ballet Tucson, and Ballet San Jose. She enjoys working with students of all ages and is always inspired by not only talent, but also intelligence and hard work.

WMYB BIOGRAPHIES

ARI MOKDAD - CHOREOGRAPHER



Ari L. Mokdad is an alumna from Grand Valley State University where she received three Bachelor of Arts degrees in Dance, Writing, and English. She has earned regional and national choreography awards and has been privileged to debut work nationally and internationally. Ari received her Master of Arts from Wayne State University in 2017. In 2019, Ari performed in *Theotokos: Reimagining the Mother of God* which was generously supported by the Lynch and Sons Fund for the Arts,

and debuted *Water Studies* with the Detroit Dance City Festival at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Ari is currently completing her MFA from Warren Wilson College and her PhD from Wayne State University. She is the recipient of the 2020 Rona Jaffe Foundation Graduate Fellowship and was awarded the 2021 Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant for her performance *When Water Moves*. In 2021, Ari was inducted into the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters for modern, ballet, and jazz. Ari is a Visiting Faculty member in the Brook's College of Interdisciplinary Studies at GVSU. Ari lives with her husband in Traverse City, on the ancestral and unceded land of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomie people, The People of the Three Fires.

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, The Jungle Book, and several U.S. tours and conventions. This is her 14th production with 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 my incredibly talented team of volunteers that work endless hours to build spectacular costumes and make sure each dancer feels important. Carrie Everhart and Kristin Throop you continue to amaze me on a daily basis. You are brilliant and have my utmost adoration and gratitude! Thank you to Wardrobe Supervisors, Judy Sulka and Eva Habetinova for your superior organizational skills, willingness to learn and follow through. A special thank you to Melissa, Carrie, Laura, Cassidy and the many parent volunteers for being so generous with your time and talents. I am incredibly grateful for all of you and proud to be a part of this team.

Keeping you in stitches, Heather Cassady

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHEN SANFORD THANKS ...

All participating schools and teachers for your love and care for these dancers.

Choreographers and stagers: Laura Berman, Jody Jaglowski, and Ari Mokdad, much love and respect. Special thank you to Margie Vizurraga for your continued support.

Dan Arganbright, our stage manager, who has helped with the trailer, sets, and backdrops.

Carola Gulick for organization of props and crew. Everyday you are building or organizing for the betterment of WMYB, thank you.

WMYB's favorite costume designer, the one and only Heather Cassady and her talented team Carrie Everhart and Kristin Throop! From August - June, everyday I see you designing and making costumes that transform dancers into the best versions of their characters. Your attention to detail is appreciated by all who experience your costumes.

Our board President and Vice President, Patti Diaz-Lawton and Carrie Everhart, for your sacrifice of time and talent that is felt throughout our organization. For your leadership in board matters and assistance with day-to-day operations.

Amy Feather for anticipating the needs of the boutique collection with her creative eye and artistic style, as well as organizing the flower sales for the dancers backstage.

Patti Diaz-Lawton and Rachel Yenchar for organizing and creating a wonderful environment for our guests at Clara's tea party.

Liz Henry for the WMYB communications which helps to lead the dancers in a clear professional manner.

Patti Diaz-Lawton for her organization with the WMYB operations committee and to Rachel Yenchar for keeping all of our volunteers organized and informed.

Jane Pierangeli for all your time in creating the promotional pieces and beautiful playbill that adds life into my vision for the show.

Annie Everhart for her time and talent in photographing our dancers for the playbill.

Humberto Decanini for photographing the dancers in performance.

Judy Sulka on the nominating committee, for helping us grow our Board of Directors that leads us to the place where we want to be.

Jennifer Sanford, Carrie Everhart, Missie Endres, and their crew of volunteers on the marketing team, with the help of Reagan Marketing, to put our show out front on our social media platforms and to help bring our supporters into the theater.

Nicole Bergsma for keeping this non-profit legitimate and sound, thank you for your dedication to this team.

Carola Gulick and Sally Shull for their marvelous ideas and efforts in fund development through their connections in our community.

Kevin Stauffer for his leadership in bringing WMYB to an excellent technological status and to Carrie Everhart for being a catalyst in making this possible.

Brigitte Nelson, Mary Anne Rosely, Carolyn Evans, and Mary Jo Kuhlman for bringing WMYB out into the community through the Boys and Girls Club, Coit Elementary and retirement centers in the area, enabling youth in the community an opportunity to experience ballet.

Mary Anne Rosely, Carrie Everhart, and Nicole Bergsma for their thorough preparation in grant submissions, providing new options for funding.

Jeremy Cox, Jane Bunting, and Matt Brunt from the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, for being a dream to work with at an amazing facility.

Thank you to the Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members for all your support and vision.

To Marlene Kenneway and Brigitte Nelson for creating the West Michigan Youth Ballet and entrusting my vision for the organization.

Thank you Sophia Erbentraut for being our WMYB student representative.

All our parent volunteers who understand the importance of participation with their children's interests at heart.

A special thank you to Laura Berman, Jody Jaglowski, Heather Cassady, Carola Gulick, and Dawnell Black for helping me keep my vision going forward.

Nick Buwalda, thank you for videoing our dancers at the Frauenthal Theatre.

A special thanks to Eric Messing, Tyler Dorman and the incredible staff of the Frauenthal Theatre.

And lastly, to my family: wife, Jennifer, and kids Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nate, and Lucy who stand with me in supporting the West Michigan Youth Ballet.

Sincerely, Stephen



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.

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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Humberto Decanini

Donald Ferris

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Brian & Sarah Miller

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Pilates of Ada

Tonya Plekes

Seth & Beata Rivard

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Kristi Schneider

Schuil Coffee

Spoke Cycle

opono oyolo

Thornhills Plaza

Tip Toes

Tutu Brilliance

Matt & Jenny White



Music by Peter Olyich Tchaikovsky

On a foggy Christmas Eve in 1915, in the Stahlbaums' sitting room, family and friends merrily trimmed the tree. Clara, Fritz, and their friends play with new Christmas toys and Mr. Stahlbaum invites the guests to dance. Drosselmeyer warmly greets the family and entertains everyone with magic. The children are delighted by a toy soldier and a beautiful pair of life-sized harlequin dolls.

Drosselmeyer then presents a magical nutcracker to Clara. Captivated, she dances with the magical doll. Fritz is envious. He mischievously pulls the nutcracker from his sister's hands, breaking it. Drosselmeyer carefully bandages the doll and returns it to Clara, who plays with it gently. The grandparents begin their annual holiday dance and all join in.

As the hour grows late, guests drift home and the Stahlbaums go upstairs to bed. Too excited to sleep, Clara returns to the darkened sitting room in search of her nutcracker doll. As the clock strikes midnight, she falls asleep on the sofa.

In her dreams, Clara relives memories of the evening. As she awakens into her dream, her house begins to expand around her and the Christmas tree grows wondrously large over tiny Clara. Giant mice appear, frightening Clara. The nutcracker doll comes to life to defend her. He summons an army of toy soldiers and a fierce battle ensues.

The Mouse Empress challenges the Nutcracker to a duel. Clara's quick thinking helps the Nutcracker defeat her. The Nutcracker, now Prince, thanks Clara for saving him and together they embark on an enchanting journey through the Land of Snow. As snow falls, snowflakes begin to dance. The King and Queen of Snow send Clara and the Prince off to their next adventure in a beautiful sleigh.

In the Land of Sweets, the Sugar Plum Fairy welcomes Clara and the Prince and asks them to tell her about the adventure that brought them to her world. Clara recounts the tale of war with the Mouse Empress. The Sugar Plum Fairy commands a festival filled with dancing to honor her guests. The celebration begins with Spanish flair, followed by an alluring Arabian genie, whirling performers from China, and flirtatious French dancers with fluttery ribbons. Russian dancers fly through the air with joy and verve. Dew Drop waltzes with her court of Flowers, dazzling Clara and the Prince. As the festivities draw to a close, the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier dance for Clara and the Prince.

Clara awakens, still smiling from her joyous dream. It is Christmas morning, and the nutcracker doll is safe in her arms.

				odilday 4:00	
	Shay Duffy				
	Lydia Boucher				
_	Sophia Bergsma	Hadley Breit	Ella Yenchar	Berkleigh Carol	Mileah Ismail
Fritz	Oliver Clark	Stella Gulick	Oliver Clark	Stella Gulick	Oliver Clark
Party Boys	Stella Gulick	Oliver Clark	Stella Gulick	Oliver Clark	Stella Gulick
	Nate Sanford				
	Felix Carlgren				
	Norah Meerman				
	Kiera Miltgen				
	Marissa Roll				
	Sammy Weaver				
	McKenzie Schippers				
	Emilyn Conn				
Party Girls	Aubrey Doyle				
	Whitney Breit				
	Emma Miller				
	Claire Herpolsheimer				
	Sophie Gietzen				
	Abigail Carlisle				
	Leah Selleck	Leah Selleck	Leah Selleck	Leah Selleck	
	Lexie White				
	Ava Stauffer				
	Mikayla Ismail				
	Charlotte Watson				
	Charley Sanial				
и	Injeel Starr	Chloe Feather	Injeel Starr	Chloe Feather	Injeel Starr
Clara's Dad	Wolfgang Goluska				

Jeremiah Goluska	Lennon Lassanske	Xander Goluska	Brooklyn Elsea	Damion Powers	Jennifer Behrenwald	Mayko Noriega	Dallas Everett		Marrisa Endres Stasia Arganbright	William Schutte	Carter Endres	Sophia Bergsma	Berkleigh Carol	Vanessa Ward	Katherine Wisser	Cora Clark	Evelyn Uzarski	Laurel Barrows	Mikena Ismail	Elaina Sanford	Sydney Byrne	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Madelyne Frang	Aila Ellis	Rylin Mais
Jeremiah Goluska	Lennon Lassanske	Xander Goluska	Brooklyn Elsea	Damion Powers	Anna Gray	Mayko Noriega	Dallas Everett	Chip Scholten	Harlee Scholten	William Schutte	Mars Maiden	Sophia Bergsma	Maja Vidinlic	Vanessa Ward	Katherine Wisser	Cora Clark	Evelyn Uzarski	Laurel Barrows	Mikena Ismail	Elaina Sanford	Sydney Byrne	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Madelyne Frang	Aila Ellis	Rylin Mais
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Jeremiah Goluska	Lennon Lassanske	Xander Goluska	Brooklyn Elsea	Damion Powers	Anna Gray	Mayko Noriega	Dallas Everett	Andrew Howard	Julia Howard	William Schutte	Mars Maiden	Ava Targosz	Maja Vidinlic	Breckti Korican	Katherine Wisser	Cora Clark	Evelyn Uzarski	Laurel Barrows	Mikena Ismail	Elaina Sanford	Sydney Byrne	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Madelyne Frang	Aila Ellis	Rylin Mais
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Party Dad 1	Party Mom 1	Party Dad 2	Party Mom 2	Party Dad 3	Party Mom 3	Party Dad 4	Party Mom 4	Grandpa	Grandma	Drosselmeyer	Nephew/Nutcracker	Harlequin Doll	Harlequin Doll		Pointe Soldiers											

	Saturday 1:00	Saturday 4:30	Sunday 1:00	Sunday 4:30	Frauenthal
Little Mice	Olivia Velicevic				
	Lydia Wilson				
	Everly Rose				
	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	
	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	
	Olivia Wisser				
	Scarlett Noriega				
	Pearl Clark				
	Lauren Hendricks				
	Maya Rivard				
	Madeleine Stauffer				
Mouse Duet	Emily McGlinchey				
	Emily Faulkner				
Mouse Empress	Anna Gray	Carli Mais	Anna Gray	Carli Mais	Anna Gray
Battle Soldiers	Ellery Gaver				
	Caylee Miller				
	Charlotte Biersack				
	Ella DeWildt				
	Savanna Behrens				
	Cecilia Roberts				
	Brynna Kozick				
	Allisun Lancaster				
Lieutenant	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Mars Maiden
	Deacon Hays				
Snow Queen	Josie Sulka	Katelyn Lenters	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Laura Frillmann	Emma Diaz-Lawton
Snow King	Fred Davis	Darrell Haggard	Fred Davis	Darrell Haggard	Darrell Haggard

Snow Quartet	Megan Steeby	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Megan Steeby	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Megan Steeby
	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Laura Frillmann	Josie Sulka	Megan Steeby	Josie Sulka
	Katelyn Lenters	Megan Steeby	Katelyn Lenters	Katelyn Lenters	Katelyn Lenters
	Katelyn Artz	Josie Sulka	Chloe Feather	Josie Sulka	Katelyn Artz
Snow Ensemble	Injeel Starr				
	Mileah Ismail	Mileah Ismail	Mileah Ismail	Mileah Ismail	
	Hadley Breit	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma
	Chloe Feather	Chloe Feather	Hadley Breit	Hadley Breit	Hadley Breit
	Berkleigh Carol	Berkleigh Carol	Berkleigh Carol	Chloe Feather	Berkleigh Carol
	Ava Targosz	Ava Targosz	Ava Targosz	Ava Targosz	Chloe Feather
	Maja Vidinlic				
	Jennifer Behrenwald				
	Carli Mais	Katelyn Artz	Katelyn Artz	Katelyn Artz	Carli Mais
	Breckti Korican				
	Ella Yenchar	Ella Yenchar	Meagan Conn	Ella Yenchar	Ella Yenchar
	Vanessa Ward				
	Meagan Conn	Meagan Conn	Carli Mais	Meagan Conn	Meagan Conn
	Laura Frillmann	Anna Gray	Laura Frillmann	Anna Gray	Laura Frillmann
Reindeer	Olivia Velicevic	Olivia Velicevic	Scarlett Noriega	Scarlett Noriega	Olivia Velicevic
	Lydia Wilson	Lydia Wilson	Pearl Clark	Pearl Clark	Lydia Wilson
	Everly Rose	Everly Rose	Lauren Hendricks	Lauren Hendricks	Everly Rose
	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	Maya Rivard	Maya Rivard	Olivia Wisser
	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	Madeleine Stauffer	Madeleine Stauffer	
	Olivia Wisser	Olivia Wisser			
Guardian Angel	Katelyn Lenters	Chloe Feather	Katelyn Lenters	Chloe Feather	Breckti Korican
Little Angels	Lydia Wilson				
	Everly Rose				
	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	Lucy Humphreys	
	Scarlett Noriega Pearl Clark				
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	Saturday 1:00	Saturday 4:30	Sunday 1:00	Sunday 4:30	Frauenthal
Little Angels	Lauren Hendricks	Lauren Hendricks	Lauren Hendricks	Lauren Hendricks	Lauren Hendricks
	Ulivia Wisser	Ulivia Wisser	Ulivia Wisser	Ulivia Wisser	Ulivia Wisser
	Maya Rivard	Maya Rivard	Maya Rivard	Maya Rivard	Maya Rivard
	Madeleine Stauffer	Madeleine Stauffer	Madeleine Stauffer	Madeleine Stauffer	Madeleine Stauffer
	Olivia Velicevic	Olivia Velicevic	Olivia Velicevic	Olivia Velicevic	Olivia Velicevic
	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	Lucia Goodrow	
Pointe Angels	Katherine Wisser	Katherine Wisser	Katherine Wisser	Katherine Wisser	Katherine Wisser
	Cora Clark	Cora Clark	Cora Clark	Cora Clark	Cora Clark
	Evelyn Uzarski	Evelyn Uzarski	Evelyn Uzarski	Evelyn Uzarski	Evelyn Uzarski
	Laurel Barrows	Laurel Barrows	Laurel Barrows	Laurel Barrows	Laurel Barrows
	Mikena Ismail	Mikena Ismail	Mikena Ismail	Mikena Ismail	Mikena Ismail
	Elaina Sanford	Elaina Sanford	Elaina Sanford	Elaina Sanford	Elaina Sanford
	Sydney Byrne	Sydney Byrne	Sydney Byrne	Sydney Byrne	Sydney Byrne
	Lucia Londot	Lucia Londot	Lucia Londot	Lucia Londot	Lucia Londot
	Cate Afman	Cate Afman	Cate Afman	Cate Afman	Cate Afman
	Madelyne Frang	Madelyne Frang	Madelyne Frang	Madelyne Frang	Madelyne Frang
	Aila Ellis	Aila Ellis	Aila Ellis	Aila Ellis	Aila Ellis
	Rylin Mais	Rylin Mais	Rylin Mais	Rylin Mais	Rylin Mais
Spanish Lead	Injeel Starr	Injeel Starr	Injeel Starr	Injeel Starr	Chloe Feather
Demi Solo	Chloe Feather	Jennifer Behrenwald	Chloe Feather	Jennifer Behrenwald	Injeel Starr
	Brooklyn Elsea	Brooklyn Elsea	Brooklyn Elsea	Brooklyn Elsea	Brooklyn Elsea
Spanish Corp	Marissa Roll	Marissa Roll	Marissa Roll	Marissa Roll	Marissa Roll
	Whitney Breit	Whitney Breit	Whitney Breit	Whitney Breit	Whitney Breit
	Emilyn Conn	Emilyn Conn	Emilyn Conn	Emilyn Conn	Emilyn Conn
	Lennon Lassaske	Lennon Lassaske	Lennon Lassaske	Lennon Lassaske	Lennon Lassaske
Arabian lead	Ava Targosz	Josie Sulka	Josie Sulka	Ava Targosz	Josie Sulka
Arabian Corp	Maja Vidinlic	Maja Vidinlic	Maja Vidinlic	Maja Vidinlic	Maja Vidinlic
	Ella Yenchar	Ella Yenchar	Sophia Bergsma	Ella Yenchar	Ella Yenchar
Arabian Male	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska

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Lucia Londot	Emma Miller		Lexie White	Norah Meerman	Sammy Weaver	McKenzie Schippers	Kiera Miltgen	Charely Sanial	Claire Herpolsheimer	Abigail Carlisle	Ava Stauffer	Charlotte Watson	Dallas Everett	Shay Duffy	Lydia Boucher	Sophie Gietzen	Laura Frillmann	Katelyn Lenters	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Berkleigh Carol	Katelyn Artz	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Oliver Clark	Nate Sanford	Deacon Hays	Felix Carlgren	Emily McGlinchey	Emily Faulkner	Shelley Irwin
Breckti Korican	Emma Miller	Leah Selleck	Lexie White	Norah Meerman	Sammy Weaver	McKenzie Schippers	Kiera Miltgen	Charely Sanial	Claire Herpolsheimer	Abigail Carlisle	Ava Stauffer	Charlotte Watson	Sophie Gietzen	Lydia Boucher	Shay Duffy	Dallas Everett	Josie Sulka	Katelyn Lenters	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Laura Frillmann	Katelyn Artz	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Oliver Clark	Nate Sanford	Deacon Hays	Felix Carlgren	Emily McGlinchey	Emily Faulkner	Pat Kalahar
Breckti Korican	Emma Miller	Leah Selleck	Lexie White	Norah Meerman	Sammy Weaver	McKenzie Schippers	Kiera Miltgen	Charely Sanial	Claire Herpolsheimer	Abigail Carlisle	Ava Stauffer	Charlotte Watson	Sophie Gietzen	Lydia Boucher	Shay Duffy	Dallas Everett	Laura Frillmann	Berkleigh Carol	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Katelyn Lenters	Ava Targosz	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Oliver Clark	Nate Sanford	Deacon Hays	Felix Carlgren	Emily McGlinchey	Emily Faulkner	Allison Woodside
Berkleigh Carol	Emma Miller	Leah Selleck	Lexie White	Norah Meerman	Sammy Weaver	McKenzie Schippers	Kiera Miltgen	Charely Sanial	Claire Herpolsheimer	Abigail Carlisle	Ava Stauffer	Charlotte Watson	Dallas Everett	Shay Duffy	Lydia Boucher	Sophie Gietzen	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Katelyn Lenters	Laura Frillmann	Ava Targosz	Katelyn Artz	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Oliver Clark	Nate Sanford	Deacon Hays	Felix Carlgren	Emily McGlinchey	Emily Faulkner	Meredith TerHarr
Breckti Korican	Emma Miller	Leah Selleck	Lexie White	Norah Meerman	Sammy Weaver	McKenzie Schippers	Kiera Miltgen	Charely Sanial	Claire Herpolsheimer	Abigail Carlisle	Ava Stauffer	Charlotte Watson	Dallas Everett	Shay Duffy	Lydia Boucher	Sophie Gietzen	Laura Frillmann	Katelyn Artz	Emma Diaz- Lawton	Katelyn Lenters	Josie Sulka	Mars Maiden	Carter Endres	Oliver Clark	Nate Sanford	Deacon Hays	Felix Carlgren	Emily McGlinchey	Emily Faulkner	Micah Beals
Chinese Lead	Chinese Corp												Chinese Lion		Lion Drummer		Reed Flute Lead	Reed Flute Corp				Russians								Mother Ginger

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Frauenthal	Aila Ellis Rylin Mais	Ellery Gaver Caylee Miller	Linnea Barrows	Ella DeWildt	Savanna Behrens Cecelia Roberts	Brynna Kozick Allisun Lancaster	Megan Steeby		Carli Mais Hadley Breit	Katelyn Artz	Jennifer Behrenwald	Meagan Conn	Vanessa Ward	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Elaina Sanford	Sophia Bergsma	Anna Gray	Mikayla Ismail	Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Sophia Erbentraut	Darrell Haggard
Sunday 4:30	Mikena Ismail Sydney Byrne	Ellery Gaver Caylee Miller Charlotte Beireack	Charlotte Beirsack Linnea Barrows Livia Rurnson	Ella DeWildt	Savanna Behrens Cecelia Roberts	Brynna Kozick Allisun Lancaster	Megan Steeby	Mileah Ismail	Carli Mais Hadley Breit	Katelyn Artz	Jennifer Behrenwald	Meagan Conn	Vanessa Ward	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Elaina Sanford	Sophia Bergsma	Anna Gray	Mikayla Ismail	Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Sophia Erbentraut	Fred Davis
Sunday 1:00	Mikena Ismail Sydney Byrne	Ellery Gaver Caylee Miller Charlotto Boirgook	chariotte beitsack Linnea Barrows Livia Burroon	Ella DeWildt	Savanna Behrens Cecelia Roberts	Brynna Kozick Allisun Lancaster	Megan Steeby	Mileah Ismail	Carli Mais Ava Targosz	Katelyn Artz	Jennifer Behrenwald	Meagan Conn	Vanessa Ward	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Elaina Sanford	Hadley Breit	Anna Gray	Mikayla Ismail	Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Sophia Erbentraut	Darrell Haggard
Saturday 4:30	Cora Clark Katherine Wisser	Ellery Gaver Caylee Miller	Unnea Barrows	Ella DeWildt	Savanna Behrens Cecelia Roberts	Brynna Kozick Allisun Lancaster	Megan Steeby	Mileah Ismail	Carli Mais Ava Targosz	Breckti Korican	Jennifer Behrenwald	Meagan Conn	Vanessa Ward	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Elaina Sanford	Sophia Bergsma	Anna Gray	Mikayla Ismail	Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Sophia Erbentraut	Fred Davis
Saturday 1:00	Cora Clark Katherine Wisser	Ellery Gaver Caylee Miller Charlotto Biomonia	Criariotte biersack Linnea Barrows Livia Burnson	Ella DeWildt	Savanna Behrens Cecilia Roberts	Brynna Kozick Allisun Lancaster	Megan Steeby	Mileah Ismail	Carli Mais Hadley Breit	Katelyn Artz	Jennifer Behrenwald	Meagan Conn	Vanessa Ward	Lucia Londot	Cate Afman	Elaina Sanford	Berkleigh Carol	Anna Gray	Mikayla Ismail	Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Sophia Erbentraut	Darrell Haggard
	Clowns	Bon Bons					Dew Drop	Flowers											Daisies			Sugar Plum	Cavalier

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.



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. communities for their residents to enjoy.



Thanks to the generous support of Spectrum Health, WMYB is able to live stream performances to the patients and their families at Spectrum Health DeVos Children's Hospital, as well

as to several different 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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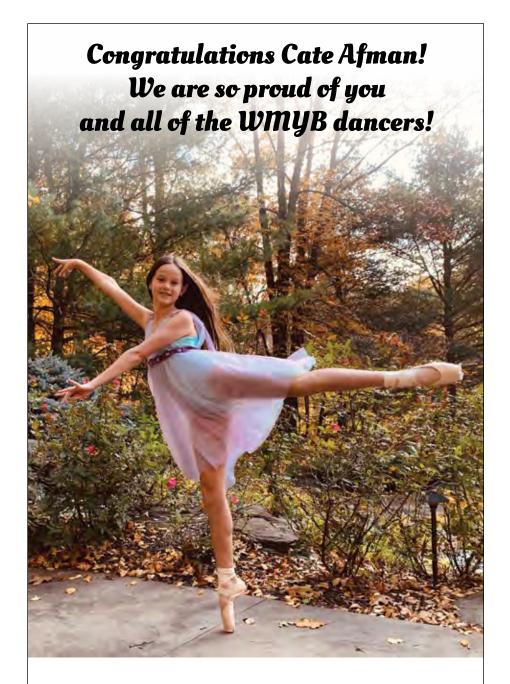
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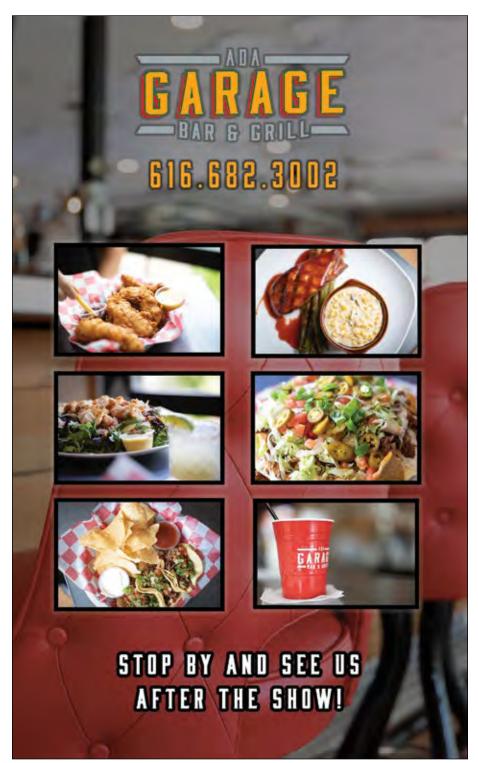
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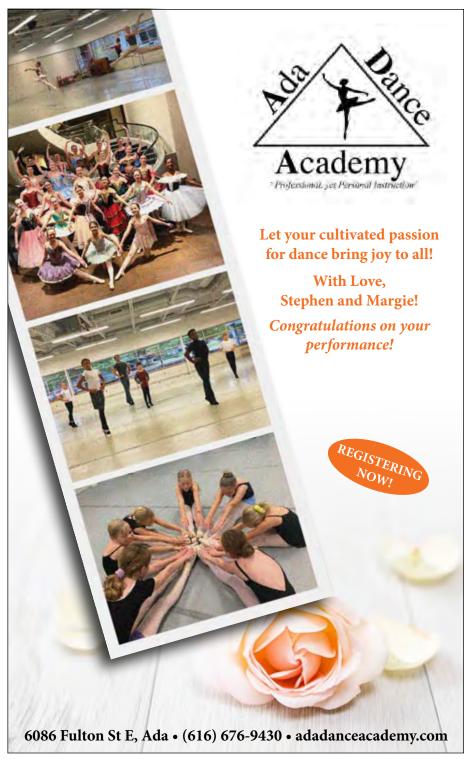






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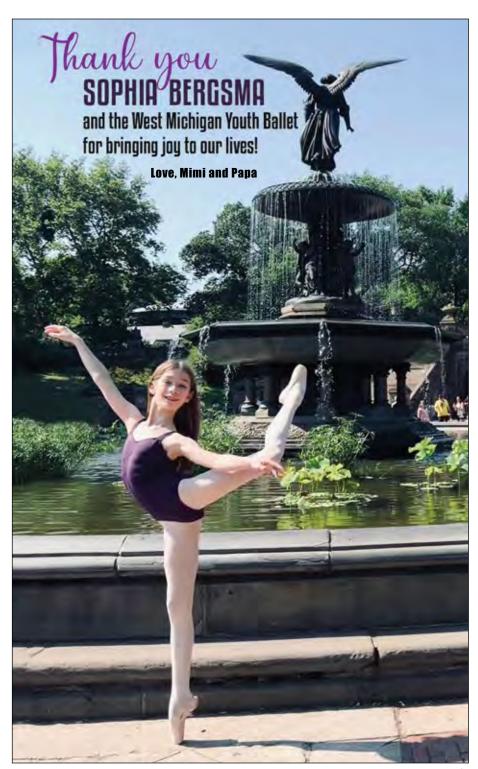
Congratulations Charlotte and all the WMYB Dancers!

Love, Mom and Dad, Wyatt & Audrey













Congratulations to all the Dancers, Parents & Volunteers on another fantastic season!

Eva, Charley & Greg















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Emma, we are so incredibly proud of you and the young woman you are becoming. You are a beautiful ballerina and so excited that your dream of being in The Nutcracker has come true! Love. Mom, Dad, Josh, Jordan,

Bella, and Maggie



We are very proud of you Lexie!



Love, Dada, Mama, Lynnlee, and Laney



Congratulations
Mileah and
the WMYB cast
on another
beautiful show!

Love, Mom, Dad, Mikena & Mikayla





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Congratulations Sammy and all the WMYB dancers!

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WMYB SENIORS



BROOKLYN (BEE) ELSEA

I am a senior at St. Louis High School in St. Louis, MI. I have been dancing with my local studio, Acadamy of Performing Arts, in Alma, MI for 11 years. I was encouraged to audition for WMYB my freshman year by our company director Kathy Francis and have been with WMYB ballet since. I also participate in our local theater company, Language Arts club at school, and am active with my school's drama club and LGBTQ club. I have greatly enjoined my time with WMYB and am so thankful for everything I have learned and how I was able to grow as a dancer. I would like to send a special

thanks to Kathy Francis and her memory for her support and belief in me. #forkathy

CHLOE FEATHER

I am a senior at Byron Center High School. My first *Nutcracker* performance was in December of 2010. After seeing a production of *Cinderella* in the spring of 2010, I knew that the following winter I wanted to be up on stage. I am so happy that I was able to watch the company grow over the past 13 years. The lessons that I have learned and the memories I have made at WMYB will stay with me for the rest of my life. I would like to thank my dance teacher Jody for constantly pushing me to be my best and my friend Injeel for always supporting me. I would also like to thank all the



volunteers who made the shows possible, especially the amazing costume and backstage crew. In addition to dance, I am on the varsity cheer team and varsity track team. I plan on studying veterinary pathology in college and am looking forward to whatever lies ahead.



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.

INJEEL STARR

I can't believe this is my last year doing *The Nutcracker* with WMYB! It's been a very long journey of dedication, perseverance, and courage. I am so very thankful for the experiences and the lessons that I have learned through WMYB and I'm grateful for the friends I've made along the way. I'd like to thank my family for always supporting my passions, all my dance teachers throughout the years for seeing and believing in me, and the costuming team for always making sure that I looked good on stage. This is such a bittersweet goodbye for me and I hope that my place at



WMYB has helped or benefited others. I hope that I can push others to success just like WYMB did for me!



MEGAN STEEBY

I am filled with gratitude as I dance my last performance with WMYB. Time has truly flown by. I have made the most amazing friends, had the most memorable onstage experiences, and had the opportunity to learn from the best. I am beyond grateful for the opportunities I've had through WMYB and am so thankful to all of my teachers who have believed in me over the years, especially Laura Berman, Crystal Delgado, Jazzae Ford, Jessica Winter-Troutwine, and Stephen Sanford. Thank you to my parents and sisters for helping me make dance such a huge part of my life. WMYB

will forever hold a special place in my heart and I will cherish the memories forever.



CATE AFMAN is a 7th grader at Forest Hills Central Middle. She has been a dancer for over nine years. She treasures these WMYB experiences! She also enjoys traveling, swimming, playing the violin, reading, and most especially hanging out with her friends, three older brothers, and any animal that she encounters!



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.



LAUREL BARROWS is a freshman at Jenison High School. This is her fifth season with WMYB and 11th year of dance. She also plays the clarinet in the Jenison High School Marching Band. She appreciates all of the support from her family and friends who regularly come to watch her perform.



LINNEA BARROWS is a 4th grader at El Puente Spanish Immersion in Jenison. This is her second year performing with WMYB and her sixth year of dancing. She also enjoys ballet competition at Ada Dance Academy, horseback riding, and playing the piano. She is grateful to her grandparents for their support, and for driving her to and from dance!



SAVANNA BEHRENS is nine years old and in 4th grade at Pine Ridge Elementary. She has been dancing for six years. This is her first year with WMYB. She also dances at David Matthews. Besides dance, Savanna enjoys spending time with her friends, reading, and running.



JENNIFER BEHRENWALD is a sophomore at Lakewood High School. She has been dancing since she was three years old at Center Stage Dance Academy in Lake Odessa. She wants to thank her family, friends, dance instructors, and especially Miss Kelly for guiding to pursue this wonderful opportunity.



SOPHIA BERGSMA is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Lowell Middle School. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for the past ten years and this is her sixth year with WMYB. When she is not dancing, she enjoys spending time with her friends. Sophia would like to thank her family, friends, and dance teachers for their

guidance and support.



CHARLOTTE BIERSACK is a 4th grader at Pine Ridge Elementary. She has enjoyed jazz and ballet classes at Ada Dance Academy for the last three years. In her free time, she enjoys playing with her dog Dakota, as well as baking, drawing, running, and playing soccer. She looks forward to being a vet someday. She's thankful for her teachers for making

dance so much fun!



LYDIA BOUCHER is 13 years old and a 7th grader at Lakewood Middle School. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy since she was four years old. This is Lydia's first time dancing with WMYB. In addition to dancing, Lydia loves to read, bake, and spend time with friends. She would like to thank her family, friends, and dance

instructors for all of their love and support.



HADLEY BREIT is thrilled to play the role of Clara in this year's *Nutcracker.* She is in 9th grade at Byron Center High School. She has been dancing for six years at HIS Dance Academy and Ada Dance Academy. This is her 5th year dancing with WMYB and she would like to thank her teachers, parents, friends, and God for helping her get to

where she is today.



WHITNEY BREIT is so exited for this year's *Nutcracker*. She is in 6th grade at Byron Center Intermediate School. She has been dancing for four years with HIS Dance Academy as well as Ada Dance Academy. This is her 5th year with WMYB and she would like to thank her friends, parents, teachers, 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. This is her third year performing in *The Nutcracker* with WMYB. When Livia is not dancing, you will see her on the basketball court or soccer field. Livia 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.



FELIX CARLGREN is a 4th grader at Knapp Forest Elementary. Felix starting his 3rd year of ballet. Felix loves to ride his dirt bike and play Minecraft. He is so excited to perform in his first *Nutcracker*!



ABIGAIL CARLISLE Hello! I am a nine-year-old, 4th grade, home-school student. When I am not on a dance floor, you can find me doing any sort of craft project, camping with my grandparents, or reading an American Girl doll book. I have been dancing for five years, all of them at Dance Revolutions. I would like to thank God for my gift of ballet, Ms. Kristi for

her patience and wisdom, and my family for their love and support!



BERKLEIGH CAROL is 13 years old and in 8th grade at St. Mary School in Lake Leelanau. Berkleigh has danced since she was three, and has performed in ballets with WMYB and Interlochen. Berkleigh would like to thank God for her talents, her parents for their support, her dance teachers for their guidance, and WMYB for this opportunity to perform.



CORA CLARK is 14 years old and in 8th grade at NorthPointe Christian. She has been dancing for six years. She dances for HIS Dance Academy and is currently in the production *Royal*. Cora has a love for the stage and this is one of the many performances that Cora has been in. Some of the things that Cora loves are Jesus, her family, music, and traveling

around the world. Merry Christmas!



OLIVER CLARK is 11 years old and in 5th grade at Northern Trails. He has been dancing for two years. This is his second year in *The Nutcracker*. Oliver also loves to play football and basketball. He is happy to be dancing with two of his three sisters in this show. He thanks his family for their love and support through his injury this year. Go Green!



PEARL CLARK is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at Ada Vista Elementary. She has been dancing since she was three. She is excited to be in her first ballet show! Pearl also loves to play soccer and basketball, play outside, create art, and be with her friends.



EMILYN CONN is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. She has been dancing since she was two with Imprint Dance Company and this is her third season with WMYB. In her spare time, she loves to draw and sing. She would like to thank to all of her friends, family, and teachers who have encouraged her along the way.



MEAGAN CONN is 14 years old and a 9th grader a Forest Hills Eastern High School. She has been dancing with WMYB for five years. Her home studio is Imprint Dance Company and has been dancing since she was two. In her free time she enjoys writing stories, crocheting, and reading. She is thankful for all the support she has received from

her teachers at dance and at school.



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 first year as a member of WMYB and she's so excited to be a part of *The Nutcracker*.



EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON is very excited for another WMYB performance. She is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Northern Hills Middle. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for the past ten years and with WMYB for the past six. This past summer, Emma attended the Boston Ballet summer intensive. She would like to thank her family

and her teachers, especially Laura and Stephen, for all of their love and support.



AUBREY DOYLE is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. This is her second official *Nutcracker* performance with WMYB. Aubrey has also performed in *Coppélia* and *Sleeping Beauty* with WMYB. She has been dancing since she was three years old. When Aubrey is not dancing, she loves to spend time with her family

and friends. She would like to thank all of her dedicated teachers at WMYB and Ada Dance Academy as well as her family and friends for all their support.



SHAY DUFFY I'm in 7th grade and go to Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. I've been doing dance since I was three years old, and it's always been my thing. The types of dance I do are ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop. This is my first time being in *The Nutcracker* and I'm super excited for the performance! I want to thank all of my dance

teachers for making dance a great experience for me. Also, I want to thank my parents for being very supportive.



AILA ELLIS is 13 years old and a homeschooler in 7th grade. She has been dancing for eight years at Ada Dance Academy and this is her third show with WMYB. Other than dance, she enjoys reading, writing, babysitting, and hanging out with family and friends. She would like to thank her wonderful friends and family for all their love and support!



BROOKLYN ELSEA I am a senior at Saint Louis High School in St Louis. I have been dancing for 10 years at my home studio, Academy of Performing Arts in Alma. This is my fourth year with WMYB. I'd like to thank WMYB for giving me the opportunity to grow and for this amazing experience. Special thanks goes to Kathy Francis of APA for

believing in me and encouraging me to come to WMYB. #forkathy



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. She is ecstatic to be Sugar Plum this year,

and can't wait to further her dancing career with WMYB.



DALLAS EVERETT is 12 years old and attends Lakewood Middle School. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy for the last seven years. This is her first year dancing for WMYB. When Dallas in not dancing she enjoys hanging out with friends and family. She would like to thank her family for the love and support and her dance

teachers for helping her grow as a dancer!



EMILY FAULKNER is a 5th grader at Central Woodlands. She has been dancing at Imprint Dance Company since she was three years old. When she is not dancing she enjoys swimming, skiing, cheerleading, and playing piano. This is her first year with WMYB and she is very grateful for the opportunity to be part of the production.





CHLOE FEATHER is a senior at Byron Center High School. This year is Chloe's 13th year with WMYB. She has been dancing since she was three years old. In addition to dance, Chloe is on Byron Center's varsity cheer team and varsity track team. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her. Chloe would also like to thank

the amazing team of volunteers that have helped with these beautiful productions.



MADELYNE FRANG is 13 years old and in 7th grade at Reeths-Puffer Middle School. Mady has been dancing for 10 years and dances for Releve Dance Studio in Whitehall. Her favorite style of dance is ballet. When she is not dancing she loves hanging out with her friends and her dog Buzz.



LAURA FRILLMANN is a senior at East Grand Rapids High School. She has been dancing since she was three years old, and she 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.



ELLERY GAVER is 10 years old and a 4th grader at Ross Park Elementary in Norton Shores. This is her eighth year at Dance Revolutions in Spring Lake, and her second year performing *The Nutcracker* with WMYB. Ellery also enjoys acting with Muskegon Civic Theatre's Performing Arts School, and was recently Charlie in

Willy Wonka Jr. When she grows up, she wants to act on Broadway! Ellery loves her two kittens and sushi, and would like to thank her family and dance teachers for helping her grow.



SOPHIE GIETZEN is 11 years old and in 5th grade at Central Woodlands. She has been dancing since she was three and currently dances at Ada Dance. When not dancing she enjoys basketball, soccer, swimming, and golf. Sophie would like to thank her wonderful dance instructors, family, and friends for supporting her passion in dance.



LUCIA GOODROW is 10 years old and from Rockford, Michigan where she is in 4th grade. She has been dancing since the age of three and is in her third year of competitive dance at Rockford Dance Company. This is her first year with WMYB and she is very honored to be part of *The Nutcracker* cast. Her passions outside of dance include

gymnastics, drawing, reading, swimming, and spending time with her family including her twin sister, Sylvie.



ANNA GRAY is 15 years old and goes to Grand Haven High School. She has been dancing since she was three years old and started competing when she was nine. She dances at Spotlight Dance Academy with the competitive troupe.



STELLA GULICK has been dancing since she could first walk. She is a 5th grader at Northern Trails 5/6 school. This is her 5th show dancing at WMYB and loves all styles of dance. 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 unfailing encouragement and support.



LAUREN HENDRICKS is nine years old and in 4th grade at Alto Elementary. Her home studio is Fine Arts School of Dance, where she's been dancing since she was three years old. One of her favorite holiday traditions is watching her older cousin in *The Nutcracker* with her studio and is now so excited to be a part this year with WMYB. When

she's not dancing you can find her with her dogs, crafting, or playing softball. A special thank you to all of the family making the trip from near and far, to support her and her love for dance.



CLAIRE HERPOLSHEIMER is 11 years old. She is a bright 6th grade student at Northern Trails. She has been twirling around performing since she was very little. When she is not dancing, she enjoys piano, rollerblading, playing with her bunnies, and spending silly time with friends! She is so excited and honored to be a part of this performance.

Claire is thankful for wonderful instructors at Ada Dance and her supportive family!



LUCY HUMPHREYS is a 3rd grader at Collins Elementary. Lucy is in her third year of dance and first year at WMYB. She also enjoys basketball, swimming, tennis, and playing with her dog.



MIKAYLA ISMAIL is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Lowell Middle School. 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 School. She currently dances at Ada Dance Academy. She competed in All-Star Cheerleading for seven years, but now is dancing full time. 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.



BRECKTI KORICAN is 13 years old and in 8th grade at NorthPointe Christian Middle School's Spanish Immersion program. She has been dancing since age five and is at HIS Dance studio. She is so blessed and thankful for her dance instructors, family, and friend support. Outside of dance she loves being with friends, anything outdoors, and

leading Praise and Worship for her church's Sunday school.



BRYNNA KOZICK is nine years old and in 4th grade. This is her 8th year dancing at Avalon School of the Arts, and her 3rd season with WMYB. She is very excited to be performing as a Bon Bon and a Soldier in *The Nutcracker* this year. When she isn't dancing, she loves riding horses, playing soccer, and being a Girl Scout. She would like to

thank all of her amazing teachers and her family for their support!!





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 School. She has been dancing at Spotlight Dance Academy for 10 years, with one year en pointe. She is incredibly excited to be joining WMYB this year in *The Nutcracker!* Lennon also enjoys running, singing, and participating in her school's musical productions. Lennon would like to

thank her dance teachers for inspiring her and her family for their continuous support as she pursues her dreams!



KATELYN LENTERS is a senior at Grand Rapids Christian High School. She has been dancing for 14 years and this is her 15th performance with WMYB. She also take 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.



LUCIA LONDOT is a sophomore at Grand Haven High School. This is her thirteenth year dancing at Spotlight Dance Academy. When she is not dancing, Lucia enjoys traveling, hanging out with friend,s and playing with her dog. Lucia is excited to be a part of WMYB this year. She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their

support and encouragement throughout the years.



MARS MAIDEN is 12 years old and has been taking dance classes since age four. This is his second year performing in *The Nutcracker* with WMYB. Mars's home studio is Imprint Dance Company, where he receives instruction in jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, and ballet and he is entering his fourth year as a member of their competition

team. Although Mars's favorite style of dance is contemporary, he is grateful for the extra ballet instruction and performance opportunities WMYB provides. Mars would like to specially thank his family and teachers at Imprint and WMYB!



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.



RYLIN MAIS is 12 years old, and in the 6th grade at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. She has been dancing since age three, and is a student at Ada Dance Academy. When not dancing, Rylin's other activities include basketball, volleyball, and lacrosse. She also enjoys spending time with her family, and having fun with the neighborhood

kids. Rylin is excited to be a part of this WMYB performance again!



EMILY MCGLINCHEY 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.



NORAH MEERMAN is a 5th grader at Spring Lake Intermediate School. This is her 8th year dancing with her studio friends! She loves to play basketball, attend Girl Scouts activities, write, draw, and read in her free time. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family and would like to thank them all for continuing to show their love and

support for her love of dance!



CAYLEE MILLER is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Ionia Middle School. She has been dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy in Lake Odessa since she was three. This is Caylee's first time with WMYB. When she's not dancing, which is not often, she enjoys camping, hanging with friends, spending time with family, and Starbucks.



EMMA MILLER is 12 years old and in 7th grade. She attends Alma Public School. She has been dancing at DuHadway Dance Dimensions in Alma since she was four. She has been a member of their Elite Competition Team since 2019 under the direction of Jillian DuHadway. "I'd like to send out a special thank you to Ms. Jillian & the DDD staff

for always pushing me to be the best I can and for helping me realize this dream I have had since I was little of performing in *The Nutcracker*."



KEIRA MILTGEN is a 6th grader at Spring Lake Intermediate School. She began dancing ballet at the age of five. This is her 6th year dancing and 4th year as a company dancer with Dance Revolutions in Spring Lake. She has several years of experience in ballet, and has competed in tap, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, and musical theatre. This

is her first year performing with WMYB. Kiera is thankful for her Heavenly Father, family, friends, and dance teachers supporting her and helping her to develop and grow as a dancer.



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!



MAYA RIVARD is nine years old and a 4th grader at Roguewood Elementary in Rockford. She has been dancing since two years old and is in her third year of competitive dance. Maya currently dances at Rhythm Dance Center. This is her first performance with WMYB. Besides dance, she enjoys girl scouts, reading, crafting, camping, and

spending time with her family and friends. Maya would like to thank her family and dance teachers for supporting her.



CECILIA ROBERTS is in 4th grade at Sacred Heart Academy. She attends Rhythm Dance Center and has danced there since she was three. She's been on the petite dance team since she was five and is currently entering her 5th year on the competition team. Ballet is her favorite dance discipline and she is excited to be a part of this

production! CC would like to thank her family and friends who have supported her and her love of dance throughout the years.



MARISSA ROLL is 11 and in 6th grade at Spring Lake. She started dancing when she was four and started dancing competitively at Dance Revolutions at age eight. She loves performing on stage for dance and theater and has been in several musicals through Central Park Players in Grand Haven. Most recently she portrayed Les in

Newsies Jr. She would like to thank her parents and dance teachers, as well as her chauffeurs, Ms. Bethany and Ms. Jackie.



EVERLY ROSE is 8 years old and a 3rd grader at Lakes Elementary School in Rockford. She has been dancing with Dance Dimensions since she was three years old and a member of their competition team for the past three years. This is her first year performing *The Nutcracker* with WMYB. In addition to dance, she enjoys gymnastics,

drawing, and spending time with family and friends.



ELAINA SANFORD I am a 7th grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. I started dancing at age three and enjoy dancing with my friends and my dad. I love camping, singing, and laughing with friends. I am the middle child of 4 siblings and like watching anime with them. I want to thank Mr. Stephen (my dad), my Ada Dance Academy instructors,

friends, and family for encouraging me throughout my dance education. This is my fifth season with WMYB and I'm very exciting to be performing once again.



NATE SANFORD I am a 2nd grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. I have 3 sisters & 1 brother. I decided to give dancing a try this past summer and really enjoyed it. I love camping, gaga ball, and jumping on our trampoline. I want to thank Mr. Stephen and Margie Vizurraga, my dance teachers from Ada Dance Academy for their instruction. This

is my first season with WMYB and I'm very excited to perform on stage.



CHARLEY SANIAL is ten years old and a 5th grader at GRCMS. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and is also on the competition team. This is her second year with WMYB and her seventh year dancing. When she is not dancing, she likes to read books, build LEGOs, and give her two cats and two gerbils endless love. She would like to

thank her dance teachers for their support and encouragement, her mom for driving her every day to and from Ada Dance, and all the volunteers who spend endless hours helping with the production and making this happen.



MCKENZIE SCHIPPERS is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Coopersville Public School. She has been dancing since the age two and currently attends Lake Michigan Dance Academy. At her home studio she performs Ballet, Jazz, Acro, and Pre-Pointe. She is also on the Company Team where she is the face of the studio and performs

additional performances throughout the year. This is her first year performing *The Nutcracker* at WMYB. When she isn't dancing, she enjoys reading, cooking, fashion, crafts, and spending time outside with family and friends.



LEAH SELLECK is 11 years old and has been dancing for about six years. She is in her first year taking lessons en pointe. Leah takes dance lessons at Ada Dance Academy, attends 5th grade at Forest Hills Northern, and also enjoys string instrument lessons. This is her fourth performance with WMYB. She would like to thank her friends

for making it such a fun part of her week and Ms. Laura, Ms. Jodi, and Mr. Stephen for their instruction and support.





INJEEL STARR is is a senior at Northview High School. She enjoys dancing, reading, hanging out with friends, and doing makeup in her free time.



AVA STAUFFER is 10 years old and is in the 5th grade at Northern Trails 5/6 school. She is currently dancing her 7th season at Hearts in Motion dance studio. This is her 3rd season with WMYB. When she is not dancing, Ava enjoys reading, drawing, cheerleading, and spending time with her family, friends, and dog, Finn. A special thank you to her

teachers at HMD for continuing to encourage her love of dance.



MADELEINE STAUFFER is eight years old and in the 3rd grade at Meadow Brook Elementary. She is currently dancing her 7th season at Hearts in Motion dance studio. This is her first season with WMYB. When she is not dancing, Madeleine enjoys reading, cheerleading, playing the violin and spending time with her family, friends and dog,

Finn. A special thank you to her teachers at HMD for their ongoing support and encouragement.



MEGAN STEEBY is a senior at Forest Hills Northern High School. In addition to her time spent at Ada Dance Academy and WMYB, she dances competitively with Imprint Dance Company, the Forest Hills Northern Eastern Varsity Dance, is active in student government and various clubs at school. She is very thankful to all of her teachers who

have believed in and encouraged her over the years.



JOSIE SULKA is a freshman at Forest Hills Northern High School and has been dancing since she was four years old. This will be her 6th year performing with WMYB. Josie dances at Ada Dance Academy and Imprint. She has attended summer intensives at Boston Ballet and Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah. She will also be competing at YAGP

and UBC this year. When not dancing, Josie enjoys spending time with friends and traveling with her family. She would also like to thank all of her dance teachers, family, and friends for all of their love and support.



AVA TARGOSZ is in 9th grade. She has been dancing since she was three years old and has been competitively dancing since she was seven. In her spare time she likes to swim, ski, and be with her family and friends. She would like to thank her dance teachers for all their support and hard work in training her.



EVELYN UZARSKI is 13 years old and attends Lowell Middle School. She has been dancing for nine years. She enjoys reading, playing the cello, and spending time with friends. Special thanks to Brooke and Gerrid Uzarski.



OLIVIA VELICEVIC is 8 years old. She is a 2nd grader at Pine Ridge Elementary. She has danced for six years. She currently dances at Studio Dance. She dances all styles as well as Acro. She is a leukemia survivor who danced right through her treatment. When she is not dancing, she loves to read, swim, and play hockey with her brother,

Nathan. She is thankful for the support of her family and friends, especially Miss Nikkie and Miss Annie!



MAJA VIDINLIC is in 9th grade at Forest Hills Central High School. She currently dances at Imprint Dance Company. She wants to give special thanks to her family, friends, and teachers.



VANESSA WARD is in 8th grade at Riverside Middle. She has been dancing since she was 2½ yrs old, in all styles of dance. She's found her passion in ballet and contemporary. She wishes to give a special thanks to her mother MaryAnne for being by her side and helping her through the good as well as the bad. Thank you.



CHARLOTTE WATSON is a nine-year-old 4th grader at Thornapple Elementary School, who as been dancing since she was three years old. She dances at Ada Dance were she gets to take part in many different types of 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.



SAMANTHA WEAVER is 10 years old and in 5th grade at White Pines Intermediate School. This is her 8th year dancing at Dance Revolutions in Spring Lake. Besides dancing, Sammy enjoys mountain biking and reading. Sammy would like to thank Ms. Kim, Ms. Jen, Ms. Kristi, and all her dance friends for supporting her passion for dance.



LEXIE WHITE is in 4th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She is excited to be appearing in her third performance with WMYB and her third time in *The Nutcracker*. She's been dancing since she could walk and attends Ada Dance Academy. Outside of ballet, 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.



LYDIA WILSON is in 3rd grade at Cherry Creek Elementary and has been dancing for more than five years. Currently, she dances at Ada Dance Academy. This is her first season with WMYB. When Lydia is not dancing, she enjoys reading and legos. Lydia would like to thank her parents and dance instructors for helping her get where she is now. She

also thanks the parents, volunteers, and contributors for making this show possible.



KATHERINE WISSER 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.



OLIVIA WISSER is in 4th grade at C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy. She has been dancing since she was four years old. The things she likes to do other than dancing is playing soccer, reading, and swimming. This is her first production with WMYB and there will be a next!



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.



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Center Stage Dance Academy
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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.

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