

WEST MICHIGAN YOUTH BALLET



Coppélia

MARCH 26, 2022 • 1:00 & 4:30PM • FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER

Illustration by Brizette Barrager

Save The Date!

The Nutcracker *auditions*



May 14

11:00AM - 12:15PM • Ages 8 thru 7th grade

12:45 - 2:15PM • 8th grade and up

\$25 Audition Fee

Doors open at 10:30AM

(Ages and grade levels for fall of 2022)

WMYB Summer Intensive

Dates: June 7-10

For: Ballet Students, Ages 8+

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DEAR DANCERS AND FAMILIES,

I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead you all through the 2022 *Coppélia* production. As I gain some perspective on this show, I find myself truly grateful that we have been able to be together at the studio and to perform once again. Although this year has given us plenty of hurdles to jump, you have all persevered, and your work ethic this season has brought us here to this moment.

As artists, we do what we can to create truth, beauty, and goodness in whatever medium we create in. The tedious work of learning the steps, waiting patiently for your turn, staying focused and in the present during the rehearsals, turns to a phase of developing characters, building deep friendships and bonds, creating respect amongst your peers, and looking forward to the opportunity to perform your role.

With our 2020 production of *Coppélia* being canceled, I can't help but feel a sense of newness as we step out onto the stage. "Toi toi toi" to all of our dancers! Thank you to your families for providing the amazing support and opportunity for you to enjoy this spring performance season.

Your Director,

Stephen Sanford

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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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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



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!

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THE STORY OF COPPÉLIA

Prelude

Franz is a young villager betrothed (engaged) to Swanhilda. But Franz is also taken with this mysterious girl named Coppélia, who sits at Dr. Coppélius' window all day, every day. Dr. Coppélius is a strange and slightly odd toy maker. As you can imagine, Swanhilda is not very happy about Franz's flirtation with Coppélia.

Act I

In the village square, celebrations are underway for the following day's Harvest Festival, when Franz and Swanhilda will be married. The couple bicker and quarrel over Franz's potential interest in Coppélia. Swanhilda is not sure of Franz's love for her so she shakes a stalk of wheat to test Franz's faithfulness which seems to calm her. Later, following a run-in with some mischievous youths on his way out, Dr. Coppélius mistakenly drops the key to his toy shop. This is too much to resist and Swanhilda and her friends pick it up and decide to venture in to meet the mysterious Coppélia.

Act II

Inside Dr. Coppélius's toy shop, Swanhilda and her friends find out that Coppélia is nothing but one of the mysterious toymaker's creations. While Swanhilda and her friends are playing with all of his creations, Dr. Coppélius returns and kicks them out, but Swanhilda is trapped. Swanhilda introduces herself to Dr. Coppélius and tells him about Franz's infatuation for Coppélia. She then sees Franz climb in through the window, hoping to meet Coppélia too, but he is intercepted by Dr. Coppélius who gives him a magic drink that makes him fall asleep. Dr. Coppélius and Swanhilda hatch a plan to teach Franz a lesson which involves Swanhilda dressing in Coppélia's clothes. While Swanhilda would like to teach Franz a lesson, Dr. Coppélius would like to make Coppélia come alive. He casts a spell in hopes of making that happen, but soon Franz regains consciousness, and all is revealed. Swanhilda forgives Franz and they run out leaving the dismayed Dr. Coppélius alone with his creations.

Act III

The villagers gather to celebrate the harvest and the wedding of Swanhilda and Franz. Dr. Coppélius is upset and bitter, and threatens to take revenge for the intrusion to his toy shop. Eventually he is pacified by the purse of gold the mayor gives him. The festivities continue into the night, with the *Dance of the Hours* and the wedding *Pas de Deux* by Franz and Swanhilda.

CAST • 1:00

Swanhilda.....	Sophia Erbentraut
Franz	Nathan Huffman
Dr. Coppélius	Wolfgang Goluska
Madam Mayor	Chloe Feather
Ambassadors.....	Daria Batzner, Injeel Starr, Hannah Truman
Coppélia Doll	Katie Basher
Swanhilda's Friends.....	Emma Diaz-Lawton, Ellie Everhart, Laura Frillmann, Kami Koetsier, Katelyn Lenters, Sara Primeau, Josie Sulka, Ella Yenchar
Harvest Maidens.....	Sophia Bergsma, Hadley Breit, Linnea Dever, Mileah Ismail, Breckti Korican, Carli Mais
Young Friends.....	Cate Afman, Laurel Barrows, Berkleigh Carol, Mikena Ismail, Elaina Sanford, Ainsley Smelker, Katherine Wissner
Franz's Friend.....	Darrell Haggard
Edelweiss	Linnea Barrows, Abigail Carlisle, Claire Herpolsheimer, Brynna Kozick, Allisun Lancaster, Hadley Salisbury, Charley Sanial, Ava Stauffer, Charlotte Watson
Roses	Leah Selleck, Stella Gulick
Blossoms.....	Molly Batzner, Whitney Breit, Amelia Bogertman, Charlotte DeYoung, Aubrey Doyle, Mikayla Ismail, Lexie White
Tin Soldier	Hadley Breit
Ballerina	Mileah Ismail
Little Bo Peep.....	Chloe Feather
Sheep	Charley Sanial, Charlotte Watson
Pierrot	Hannah Truman
Colombine	Injeel Starr
Harlequin	Daria Batzner
Little Miss Muffett	Ella Yenchar
Spider.....	Allisun Lancaster
Red Riding Hood.....	Linnea Dever
Jack & Jill.....	Stella Gulick, Leah Selleck
Pied Piper	Carter Endres
Mice	Linnea Barrows, Abigail Carlisle, Claire Herpolsheimer, Brynna Kozick, Hadley Salisbury, Ava Stauffer
Waltz of the Hours	Sophia Bergsma, Hadley Breit, Berkleigh Carol, Linnea Dever, Laura Frillmann, Mileah Ismail, Kami Koetsier, Breckti Korican, Katelyn Lenters, Carli Mais, Sara Primeau, Ella Yenchar
Dawn.....	Ellie Everhart
Prayer.....	Josie Sulka
Folly	Emma Diaz-Lawton
Folly Friends	Cate Afman, Laurel Barrows, Mikena Ismail, Elaina Sanford, Ainsley Smelker, Katherine Wissner
Jubilee.....	Daria Batzner, Chloe Feather, Injeel Starr, Hannah Truman

CAST • 4:30

Swanhilda.....	Ellie Everhart
Franz.....	Darrell Haggard
Dr. Coppélius.....	Wolfgang Goluska
Madam Mayor.....	Daria Batzner
Ambassadors.....	Chloe Feather, Injeel Starr, Hannah Truman
Coppélia Doll.....	Katie Basher
Swanhilda's Friends.....	Emma Diaz-Lawton, Sophia Erbentraut, Laura Frillmann, Kami Koetsier, Katelyn Lenters, Sara Primeau, Josie Sulka, Ella Yenchar
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Young Friends.....	Cate Afman, Laurel Barrows, Berkleigh Carol, Mikena Ismail, Elaina Sanford, Ainsley Smelker, Katherine Wisser
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Roses.....	Aubrey Doyle, Stella Gulick
Blossoms.....	Molly Batzner, Amelia Bogertman, Whitney Breit, Charlotte DeYoung, Mikayla Ismail, Leah Selleck, Lexie White
Tin Soldier.....	Hadley Breit
Ballerina.....	Mileah Ismail
Little Bo Peep.....	Chloe Feather
Sheep.....	Charley Sanial, Charlotte Watson
Pierrot.....	Hannah Truman
Colombine.....	Injeel Starr
Harlequin.....	Daria Batzner
Little Miss Muffett.....	Ella Yenchar
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WMYB SPRING COMPANY



WMYB SENIORS



GUEST DANCERS



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.



WOLFGANG GOLUSKA is a student 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, with the most recent being Children's Ballet Theatre. With these studios, he has had the pleasure of performing roles such as the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, Don Quixote in *Don Quixote* 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, and Grand Rapids Ballet in their respective Summer intensives. He hopes to join a professional ballet company some day, and is currently working hard at GVSU as well as guest dancing with some local companies to further his exposure and training.



KATIE BASHER is a student at Grand Rapids Community College where she will get an associate's degree for General Business and then continue her studies at Grand Valley State University to get her bachelor's degree. She has trained mostly in ballet from ages 5-18. She danced with WMYB for nearly 10 years with many supporting roles such as Clara's Mom and the Guardian Angel in *The Nutcracker*. She has also been in their spring shows such as *Sphere of Life*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Tales of Peter Rabbit*, *Coppelia*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*. Currently she is helping run the front desk at Ada Dance Academy and is occasionally a substitute teacher as well. Katie is very excited to be back on stage with WMYB!

WMYB BIOGRAPHIES



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.



LAURA SCHWENK-BERMAN • CHOREOGRAPHER

Laura Schwenk Berman is an Artistic Director of Waking Beauty Productions in Chicago. She has been performing, teaching, choreographing, and staging works for over 42 years. She began her career dancing principal roles for the Garden State Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet and for seven years with the Pacific Northwest Ballet where she performed as a soloist with Gelsey Kirkland and Mikhail Baryshnikov. She has toured as a guest artist throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Ms. Berman served as the Ballet Mistress, Interim Artistic Director and Associate Artistic Director of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company from 1992-2010. She conducted two capital campaigns for the company, one to renovate the old North Star Bus Terminal into four beautiful studios, the other to build the Peter Martin Wege Theatre and costume shop. At that time, she was also the Director of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, establishing the school's curriculum, syllabus, faculty, and performances, while placing students in ballet companies around the world. Currently in addition to her work with Waking Beauty Productions, Ms. Berman choreographs original works, stages full-length ballets, and is a guest master instructor and coach. She has a Masters degree in Theatre from Northwestern University where she graduated with honors.

WMYB BIOGRAPHIES



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. While there, she and other dancers were 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 WMYB and Michigan Ballet Academy. In 2016, Jody completed Pre-Primary – Level 5 of the ABT 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.



HEATHER CASSADY • COSTUME DESIGNER, COSTUMER, SEAMSTRESS

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 13th 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 that continues to work endless hours to make spectacular costumes. Carrie Everhart and Kristin Throop you amaze me on a daily basis. You are brilliant! You go above and beyond to make everything we build beautiful and of the highest quality. There truly is love in every stitch! Thank you to Margie Styf, Melissa, Judy, Cassidy, Eva, and Kelly for sharing your talents to make the costumes such a valued part of this production of Coppélia. Thank you to Patti and Rachel for all of the beautiful headpieces you created.



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*Congratulations Katelyn Lenters
and all the dancers at
West Michigan Youth Ballet!*

Congratulations Stella Gulick!



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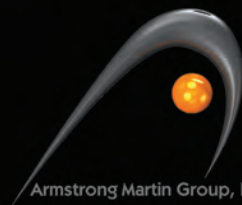
*Congratulations Emma!
We are so proud of you!*



*Love,
Mom, Papa, and Ethan*



*Congratulations to all the
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Dancers!*



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Congratulations to
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the West Michigan
Youth Ballet dancers.
*Love, Mom, Dad,
and Madeleine*



Congratulations Abigail
on your first season
with WMYB!
With Love, Your Family

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



WMBYB IN THE COMMUNITY

WMBYB 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, WMBYB has been able to bring the love of dance and the world of Ballet to the Boys & Girls Club – Steil Center. WMBYB has sent instructors to teach weekly ballet technique classes to children, who may not have had the opportunity to learn dance instruction. Stephen Sanford, WMBYB Artistic Director, brought several of our cast members to perform and mentor these young dancers. In the future, WMBYB 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 Spectrum Health, WMBYB 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.



WMBYB 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 WMBYB'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.



WMYB SENIORS



ELLIE EVERHART

Dancing with West Michigan Youth Ballet has been one of the most exhilarating, challenging, and valuable activities I have been a part of in high school. I will always treasure the friends I have made and the bonds that have formed through these shows. While I will miss the passion of performance, I am beyond grateful for everything I have gotten to put on stage. I sincerely appreciate every role and opportunity I have been given and could never have done it without the instruction provided by Laura Berman, Stephen Sanford, Samantha Shelton, and Margie Vizurraga. I

am grateful for all the families who give their time and talents to make these performances a reality. I have seen the thousands of hours and significant amounts of coordination it takes to put on these beautiful shows. Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends who have supported me throughout all my time with WMYB and come to my performances to support me.

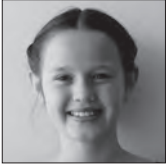


HANNAH TRUMAN

I have been a part of WMYB for the last three years and it has been an incomparable experience. I am grateful for all the performances, opportunities, and memories WMYB has given me. I would like to thank Stephen Sanford and Jody Jaglowski for pushing and encouraging me during rehearsals. I would like to thank Heather Cassady for all the work she does to make such beautiful costumes, that make performing even more magical. I would also like to thank Kathy Francis for teaching me how to love dance and Andrea Purrenhage for helping me become the dancer I am today. And

last but not least, I would like to thank my family and friends for all their love and support throughout the years. After graduation, I plan on going to college to major in dance and graphic design.

WMYB DANCERS



CATE AFMAN is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Central Woodlands. She has been dancing for over eight years and in her 5th WMYB performance. She has built so many beautiful friendships with these dancers. Cate enjoys hanging out with her three brothers and her friends when she's not reading, biking, or swimming in the lake.



LAUREL BARROWS is 13 and an 8th grader at Jenison Junior High. She's been dancing for ten years, and this is her fourth season with WMYB. When she isn't dancing, she plays clarinet and piano, and loves spending time with her friends. She is grateful to her family, especially sister Linnea, grandparents, and parents for their support.



LINNEA BARROWS is a 3rd grader at El Puente Spanish Immersion in Jenison. She has been dancing for five years, and is excited to perform for the first time this year with WMYB, and Ada Dance Academy's competition team. When she's not dancing, she loves horseback riding, playing piano, and hanging out with her sister, dog, and two cats. She would like to thank all of her friends and family for their love and support.



DARIA BATZNER Hi! My name is Daria Batzner and I'm a junior at Mount Pleasant High School. I've been dancing for 11 years and I'm currently dancing at the Mount Pleasant School of Dance. I'm super excited to perform in this ballet! See you from the stage!



MOLLY JANE BATZNER is a 4th grader at Renaissance Public School Academy. She has been dancing for six years and currently studies at the Mount Pleasant School of Dance. MJ is also close to achieving her black belt in Taekwondo at Mount Pleasant Martial Arts.



SOPHIA BERGSMA is a 7th grader at Lowell Middle School and takes dance classes at Ada Dance Academy. She started dancing when she was two and has loved it ever since. When she is not dancing, she enjoys painting, riding her bike, and spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her family, teachers, and friends for their guidance and support.

WMYB DANCERS



AMELIA BOGERTMAN is a 10 year old dancer who's in 5th grade at Northern Trails 5 / 6 school. She loves to dance, bake, and hang out with her sister and her friends. She has worked very hard for this performance, which is her first with WMYB. She was born in Michigan, then moved to Colorado, and is now back in Michigan.



HADLEY BREIT is in 8th grade at Byron Center West Middle School. She has been dancing for six years and has been en pointe for three. Hadley can't wait to perform in *Coppélia*. She is very excited to be able to do it with her little sister Whitney. She thanks her family, friends, dance teachers, and God for making all of this possible.



WHITNEY BREIT is in 5th grade at Byron Center Intermediate School. She has been dancing for three years at Ada Dance Academy. Whitney is so excited to perform *Coppélia* on stage with her sister and friends. She thanks her family, friends, dance teachers, and God for making everything possible.



ABIGAIL CARLISLE Hi, I'm Abigail! I am a 3rd grade homeschool student. This is my fourth year in ballet and my first with WMYB. When I'm not dancing, I like camping, working on art projects, and reading! I would like to thank Ms. Kristi and my parents for all their support!



BERKLEIGH CAROL is a 12-year-old 7th grader at St. Mary School in Lake Leelanau. She has trained with the Dance Center in Traverse City for nine years and started dancing at Ballet Etc. this year. Berkleigh has performed in many ballets with the Dance Center Youth Ensemble and at Interlochen. She has danced competitively since she was nine. Berkleigh would like to thank God for her talents, her parents for their support, her dance teachers for their guidance, and the West Michigan Youth Ballet for this opportunity to perform.



LINNEA DEVER I'm a freshman at East Grand Rapids High School. This is my 11th year dancing and 4th year with West Michigan Youth Ballet. Outside of dance I love to travel, hang out with friends, play violin, read, and bake. I want to thank my parents for always supporting me and my teachers for getting me as far as I've come.

WMYB DANCERS



CHARLOTTE DEYOUNG is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Zeeland Public Schools. She has been dancing at Avalon School of the Arts in Holland for five years. In addition to ballet, she studies acrobatics, jazz, and modern. This is Charlotte's second performance with WMYB! When Charlotte is not dancing, she enjoys soccer, Girl Scouts, music, art, and exploring outdoors. She would like to thank her dance teachers for supporting her journey!



EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON is 12 years old and is in 7th grade at NHMS. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for the past 9 years and with WMYB for the past five. This year, Emma is looking forward to competing at YAGP again, and is also doing UBC. Emma would like to thank her family for all their support, and her teachers, especially Laura and Stephen for getting her to where she is.



AUBREY DOYLE is 9½ years old and in 4th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. Aubrey has been dancing since she was three, and this is her second year with WMYB. She loved performing in *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*, and is looking forward to performing in *Coppélia*. When she is not dancing, Aubrey enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Aubrey would like to thank all of her dedicated and caring dance teachers at both WMYB and Ada Dance Academy.



CARTER ENDRES is 12 years old. This is his first performance with WMYB. Carter previously danced for two years when he was in elementary school. Now as a 6th grader at Lowell Middle School, he is ready to 'waltz' back in. Carter is a jack of all trades. He excels in football, wrestling, and soccer. He also loves to hunt and fish. When he's at home you can find him using his creative abilities to create works of art through different mediums. He would like to thank WMYB for this opportunity.



SOPHIA ERBENTRAUT is a sophomore at Forest Hills Central High School. She has been dancing for about 11 years. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and Imprint Dance Company. Sophia has competed in various competitions, including placing in the Youth America Grand Prix.

WMYB DANCERS



ELLIE EVERHART is excited to be part of the WMYB again this year. Ellie lives in Ada and is a senior at Northern High School. Ellie dances at Ada Dance Academy and has been taking dance classes since she was four. Over the past few summers, she has attended Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Ballet Chicago, and Ballet West summer intensive programs. Ellie would like to thank her instructors, family, and friends for all of their support.



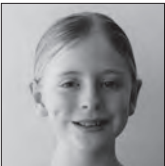
CHLOE FEATHER is a junior at Byron Center High. She has been dancing since she was three and this will be her 12th year with WMYB. When Chloe is not at dance, she can be found at cheer or track. Chloe is thankful for the wonderful experience the ballet has given her and appreciates her ballet teachers who have helped her progress to the dancer she is now. Chloe would also like to thank all the volunteers who put in the time to help this show come together.



LAURA FRILLMANN is a junior at East Grand Rapids High School. She has been dancing since she was three, and has loved it ever since. This will be her third year with West Michigan Youth Ballet, and she is thrilled for this season. In her free time, Laura likes to spend time with her family and friends, and she loves to be creative. She would like to give a special thanks to her family and wonderful instructors for their endless support and love.



STELLA GULICK has been dancing since she could first walk, but has been taking lessons for four years. She is a 4th grader at Ada Vista Elementary. Stella loves all forms of dance including ballet, jazz, hip hop, and Acro and is proud to be on the competition dance team. She'd like to thank her mom for driving her to all of her practices, her dad, sister Maya, and grandparents Nana, Grandpa Juan, and Grandma and Grandpa Gulick, and all her wonderful instructors at Ada Dance.



CLAIRE HERPOLSHEIMER is 10 yrs old. She is a bright 5th grade student at Northern Trails. She has been twirling around performing since she was very little! When she is not dancing she enjoys piano, cheerleading, rollerblading, and spending time with friends! She is so excited and honored to be apart of this performance. Claire is so thankful for wonderful instructors at Ada Dance and a supportive family!

WMYB DANCERS



NATHAN HUFFMAN is a junior at Traverse City Central High School. He has been dancing for seven years and has been with WMYB for four years. He would like to give immense gratitude to the numerous teachers that have helped him develop in his career thus far, as well as his family for their love and support.



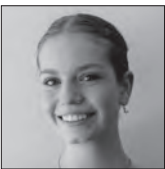
MIKAYLA ISMAIL is in 5th grade at Alto Elementary School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. Mikayla has been dancing for six years. She enjoys reading, deer, the color yellow, and hanging out with her friends. Mikayla would like to thank God, her dance instructors, friends, and family for supporting her dance dreams.



MIKENA ISMAIL is in 7th 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 would like to thank God, her dance instructors, her family, and her friends for supporting her dream of dance.



MILEAH ISMAIL is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Lowell Middle School. She enjoys dancing with Ada Dance Academy. Besides dance, she enjoys swimming, acting in her school drama class, caring for her family's 17 pets, and playing her clarinet. Mileah would like to thank God, her dance instructors, her family, and her friends for supporting her passion in dancing.



KAMI KOETSIER I am a junior at Forest Hills Central High School. I've been dancing since I was three years old and this is my 8th year with West Michigan Youth Ballet. I would like to thank my parents for supporting me and my teachers for helping me get stronger every year.



BRECKTI KORICAN is 12 years old and a 7th grader at NorthPointe Christian School. She has been dancing for seven years and is at Ada Dance Academy. She is so grateful for her teachers and is honored to be part of WMYB. Outside of dance, she enjoys being with friends, outdoor activities, and leading her preschool Sunday School kids at Magnify Church.

WMYB DANCERS



BRYNNA KOZICK is a 3rd grader at Lincoln Elementary in Zeeland. She is in her 7th year of dancing at Avalon School of the Arts in Holland and her 3rd year of musical theater at Grand Rapids Civic Theater. Brynna loves to perform and make people smile. She also participates in soccer, horseback riding, and Girl Scouts. She would like to thank all of her amazing dance and theater instructors, as well as her family and friends for their love and encouragement.



ALLISUN LANCASTER is a 3rd grader at Murray Lake Elementary. She has been active with dance and gymnastics for several years and is so excited for the amazing opportunity to be in stage with the West Michigan Youth Ballet. She is thankful to all of her teachers, coaches, dance friends, and the caring parent volunteers for making this experience so amazing and memorable (and her family is as well).



KATELYN LENTERS is a junior at Grand Rapids Christian High School. She has been dancing for 13 years and this is her 13th performance with WMYB. She also takes classes at Ada Dance Academy. She would like to thank her parents for all the support they give her.



CARLI MAIS is 13 years old, and an 8th grader at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. She has been dancing for nine years, and is a student at Ada Dance Academy. This is her 5th year with WMYB. Carli would like to thank her teachers, family, and friends for their love and support.



SARA PRIMEAU is a freshman at Saint Francis High School, She has been dancing for 13 years, and this is her first year performing with WMYB. Sara is beyond excited to participate. Sara is grateful to work with amazing staff and choreographers and meet new dancers.



HADLEY SALISBURY is 9 years old and in 3rd grade at New Groningen Elementary in the Spanish immersion program. She is currently taking both ballet and tap classes at Turning Pointe in Holland. This is Hadley's first performance with WMYB and she has enjoyed being part of *Coppélia*. When not dancing, Hadley enjoys basketball, swimming and writing. She would like to thank her parents and family for their support.

WMYB DANCERS



ELAINA SANFORD I am in 6th grader at GRPS Blandford 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), all my dance instructors, friends, and family for encouraging me on my dance path. This is my fourth year dancing with WMYB and I'm very exciting to be performing again this season.



CHARLEY SANIAL is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Pine Ridge Elementary. This is her sixth year dancing, her fourth year at Ada Dance Academy, and first time with WMYB. When she is not dancing, she loves to read, play games, build LEGOs, and spend time outside. In addition to dancing, she is very interested in science and space. She would like to thank her dance teachers for making dance fun and helping her improve.



LEAH SELLECK is 10 years old and has been dancing for about five years. She recently fell head over heels for ballet and is counting the days until she can dance en pointe. Leah takes dance lessons at Ada Dance Academy, attends 4th grade at Collins Elementary, and is learning piano and ukulele. She would like to thank Ms. Margie, Mr. Stephen, and WMYB for all they do for this community of dancers.



AINSLEY SMELKER is 13 years old and a home schooled 8th grader. She has been dancing ballet at HIS Dance for four years. This is her first experience with WMYB. Besides ballet, she is passionate about playing jazz trumpet, writing songs, and reading lots of books. In her spare time, she likes to hang out and act silly with her friends and family.



INJEEL STARR is a 16-year-old junior at Northview High School this year. She been dancing since she was two and has loved dancing since then. Some of her favorite hobbies are reading, longboarding, and hanging out with friends.

WMYB DANCERS



AVA STAUFFER is 9 years old and is in the 4th grade at Meadow Brook Elementary School. She is currently dancing her sixth season at Hearts in Motion Dance Studio. This is her second season with WMYB. When she is not dancing, Ava enjoys reading, cheerleading, playing the piano, 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.



JOSIE SULKA is in 8th grade at Northern Hills Middle School and has been dancing since she was four years old. This will be her fifth year performing with WMYB. Josie dances at Ada Dance Academy and Imprint. She also attended Boston Ballet's 2021 summer intensive and will be competing at YAGP and UBC this year. When not dancing, Josie enjoys spending time with friends and vacationing with her family. She would also like to thank all of her dance teachers, family, and friends for all of their love and support.



HANNAH TRUMAN is a senior, who is homeschooled. She dances at the Mt. Pleasant School of Dance. Her favorite styles are ballet and modern. She has had the privilege of attending Ballet 5:8 and Grand Rapids Ballet summer intensives. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support. She would also like to thank Andrea Purrenhage and Kathy Francis for helping her become a better dancer.



CHARLOTTE WATSON I am 8 years old and I am in 3rd grade at Thornapple Elementary School. I have been dancing since I was three years old. I am currently dancing at Ada Dance Academy and I'm happy to be on their competition team. When I am not dancing, I like to read, swim, practice the piano and play with my friends, three younger siblings and guinea pigs. I would like to thank all my incredible dance teachers and my family for their help and encouragement.



LEXIE WHITE is in 3rd grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She is excited to be appearing in her second performance with WMYB. She's been dancing for five years and attends Ada Dance Academy. Outside of ballet, she plays soccer, golf, swims and enjoys time with friends. She thanks God, her dance teachers, and family for supporting her dreams of classical ballet.

WMYB DANCERS



KATHERINE WISSER is in 7th grade at City High Middle School. Kate takes ballet, jazz, and contemporary classes at Ada Dance Academy and has been dancing for six years. When not dancing, she enjoys reading and spending time with her friends and family. She would also like to thank her parents for all of their support.



ELLA YENCHAR is 13 years old and in 7th grade at Ionia Middle School. She has been dancing with West Michigan Youth Ballet for five years and Ada Dance Academy for seven years. When Ella isn't dancing, she spends time with her family, friends and pets. Ella would like to thank her dance teachers for getting her this far and her family for all their support.

Members of the West Michigan Youth Ballet Company are representative of several dance studios throughout Michigan. Thank you to the following studios.

Ada Dance Academy
Mt. Pleasant School of Dance
Dance Revolutions
Hearts In Motion Dance Project
Dance Dimensions

HIS Dance Academy
Ballet Etc.
Avalon School of the Arts
Turning Pointe School of Dance



photo credit: Marie Clark

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHEN SANFORD THANKS ...

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

All choreographers and staggers: **Laura Berman, Jody Jaglowski, and Lisa Peasley**, much love and respect. Special thank you to Lisa Peasley for participation in the *Coppélia* leadership and to **Margie Vizurraga** for your continued support.

Dan Arganbright, our stage manager, who has helped with the trailer, sets, and backdrops. **Carola Gulick and crew**, for running the props and keeping the production organized backstage. To **Brant Erbenraut and his father and Mike McAlpine** for all their hard work on the beautiful new *Coppélia* set. It has been a blessing to have all of your continuous support.

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.

Patti Diaz-Lawton, a strong organizer and WMYB's COVID liaison during this pandemic. You have shouldered a tremendous amount of stress and responsibility for the sake of keeping the WMYB's production possible. Thank you!

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 *Story Time with Coppélia*.

Our board President, **Mary Anne Rosely**, 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.

Liz Henry for the WMYB communications and for organizing the WMYB production calendar, which helps me on my path to lead the dancers.

Patti Diaz-Lawton and Judy Sulka for their organization with the WMYB operations and committees and to **Rachel Yenchar** for keeping all of our volunteers organized and informed.

Brigette Barrager for generously allowing us to utilize her beautiful illustration of *Coppélia* and friends to market and promote our show.

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

Annie Everhart for her time and talent in photographing our dancers for the playbill and taking pictures of everyone for their bio.

Humberto Decanini for photographing the dancers in performance.

Carrie Everhart, Jennifer Sanford, 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.

Caren Kerpich and Nicole Bergsma for keeping this Non-Profit legitimate and sound, thank you for your dedication to this team.

Sally Shull for her marvelous ideas and efforts in fund development.

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, Olivia Asarch, and Caren Kerprich for their thorough preparation in grant submissions, providing new options for funding.

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

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

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

Thank you **Sophia Erbenraut and Kami Koetsier** for being our first WMYB student representatives.

All 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 Dan Arganbright** for helping me keep my Vision going forward.

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

SPECIAL THANKS ...

To the Props and Sets Committee:

Thank you to an incredible group of volunteers who brought their time and talent together. **Brant Erbentraut and his father** for taking on the set construction and vision, as well as new projects with enthusiasm and ideas. **Eric and Jenny Huffman, Mike and Allison DeYoung, and Mike McAlpine** for all the teamwork of the special projects. **Dana Doyle** for her assistance and organization of props. **Patti Diaz-Lawton** for stepping up with props help whenever we needed it. **Stasia Arganbright and the volunteers** for helping to make a smooth transition from the building to the theater and back. **Dan Arganbright** for teaching me props and backstage and making it enjoyable to be the lead on the props team. **Carrie, Heather, and Kristin** from costuming for their patience and expertise in getting props coordinated with our costumes and **Stephen** for trusting me with his vision. Lastly, my husband **Greg and my family**, for their support during the time spent creating props for the dancers.

Sincerely, Carola Gulick

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.

AUTOGRAPHS

OMSA

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates of Western Michigan, P.L.C.

*Congratulations Sophia and all of the
West Michigan Youth Ballet Dancers!*



Brant Erbentraut, DDS

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