

The Nutcracker



DECEMBER 7-8, 2024

1:00 & 4:30 PM

FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER

DECEMBER 14, 2024

3:00 PM

FRAUENTHAL CENTER

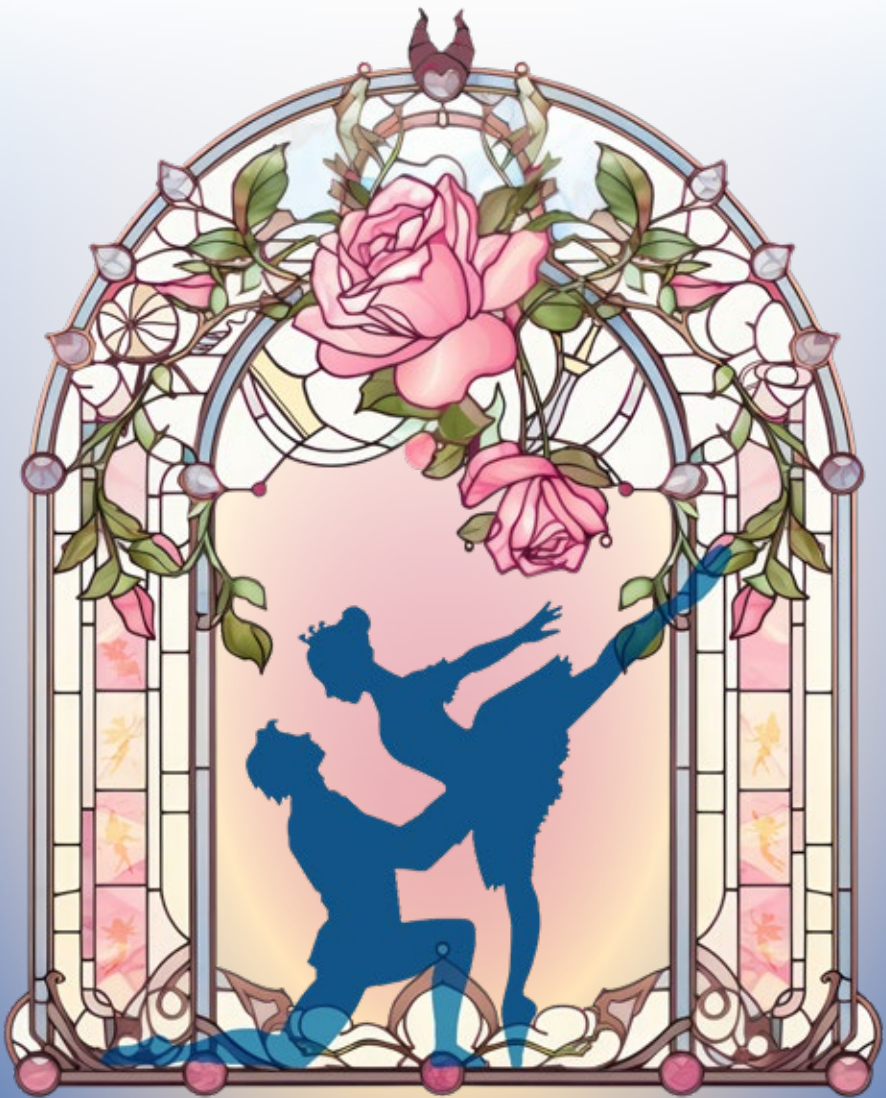
MUSKEGON

West
Michigan
**YOUTH
BALLET**



Enrich. Inspire. Grow.

SAVE THE DATE!



the Sleeping Beauty

MARCH 29-30
FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER

WMYB.ORG
FOR INFO

WHO IS WEST MICHIGAN YOUTH BALLET

West Michigan Youth Ballet (WMYB), founded in 2007 in Ada, Michigan, is committed to developing young people in their pursuit and passion for artistic expression through dance.

Company members, ranging in age from 8 to 18, with varied backgrounds and experience across the full spectrum of dance, come together for weekly rehearsals. Their common goal is the desire to be part of a performing company built on a solid foundation of classical ballet.

Our winter seasonal offering is *The Nutcracker*, with traditional choreography set to Tchaikovsky's original score. The spring production ranges from time-honored masterpieces like *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Coppélia* to brand-new productions like *The Wizard of Oz*. Our young artists shine in their performances, gaining athletic and artistic skills, as well as collaborative and memorable experiences. Personal growth, both as individuals and as part of a whole, is evident in every dancer.

OUR MISSION

West Michigan Youth Ballet provides our community opportunities for lifelong confidence, discipline, and belonging that result from participating in the physical and social art of ballet.

OUR VISION

We are committed to providing access to the art of ballet, transcending age and socioeconomic boundaries, to cultivate enduring connections to performing arts and inspiring future careers.



WMYB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marlene Kenneway, *Chairperson/Co-Founder* Brigitte Nelson, *Co-Founder*

Stephen Sanford, *Artistic Director*
Jennifer Czekai, *Executive Director*
Patricia Diaz-Lawton, *President*
Carola Gulick, *Vice President*
Nicole Bergsma, *Co-Treasurer*
Greg Sanial, *Co-Treasurer*
Missie Endres, *Secretary*
Adam Bird
Cassidy Carlisle
Dana Doyle
Carolyn Evans

Carrie Everhart
Amy Feather
Liz Henry
Caren Kerprich
Mary Jo Kuhlman
Courtney Lee
Claire Pomeroy
Harlee Scholten
Kevin Stauffer
Judy Sulka
Rachel Yenchar

Student Representatives

Carli Mais
Josephine Sulka

Advisory Board

Maria DeVos
Marlene Kenneway
Melissa Meldrum-Aaberg, M.D.
Mary Anne Rosely
Laura Berman

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

West Michigan Youth Ballet would like to extend heartfelt appreciation for the continued generosity and support of Doug and Maria DeVos. We also acknowledge and thank the National Endowment for the Arts for their support of our organization.



Platinum Production Sponsor

Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation
Olivia & Grant Griffioen

Gold Performance Sponsor

Timothy & Debra Leipprandt
Mary Anne & Brad Rosely

Silver Set Sponsor

Larry & Patti Diaz-Lawton
The Erbentraut Family
Greg Sanial & Eva Habetinova

Friend of the Ballet

Marc & Darcy Afman Family
Lucas & Nicole Bergsma
Matthew & Gina Biersack
David & Mary Capper
Tim & Dana Doyle
Matthew & Heather Gietzen
Carola, Greg, & Maya Gulick
Al & Liz Henry
Thomas & Lupe Izzo
Dani & Justin Machata
Juan & Diana Marinez
PNC Bank
Jeff & Sally Shull
Mark & Judy Sulka
Genna & Dave VanderWheele
The Watson Family

Patron of the Ballet

Anonymous
Anonymous
Debra Battjes
Elizabeth & Bob Burnson
Paul & Diane Jones
Pauly Vending
Rich & Laura Mais
Mary Ellen & Mike Ramsby
Steelcase

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!

Go to **wmyb.org**.
Choose your level under
the Support Us menu.



Or scan this
QR code with
your smartphone.

Platinum Production Partner	\$10,000 +
Gold Performance Sponsor	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Silver Set Sponsor	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Friend of the Ballet	\$500 - \$2,499
Patron of the Ballet	\$1 - \$499

West Michigan Youth Ballet is a 501 (c) (3) Michigan non-profit corporation. PO Box 725 Ada, MI 49301

"Find the passion. It takes great passion and great energy to do anything creative. I would go so far as to say you can't do it without that passion." – Agnes de Mille

*Dear Audience,
What do The Nutcracker and West Michigan Youth Ballet have in common with Agnes de Mille? They are all driven by passion, artistry, and dedication.*

Agnes de Mille transformed dance into a powerful form of expression, much like our dancers today who pour their passion into every movement and story on stage. Just as Clara is swept into a magical world in The Nutcracker, our dancers bring that same passion and dedication to every step, infusing their roles with energy and commitment.

But it takes more than passion to make this magic happen. Behind the scenes, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of dollars are necessary to bring this production to life. From set construction to costume design, from marketing to logistics, the commitment of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors are the backbone of the West Michigan Youth Ballet. Your support, whether through time, talent, or financial contribution, is encouraged and deeply appreciated.

We are immensely proud of the dancers from over 22 studios across Michigan, from Traverse City to Kalamazoo. Their journey has been marked by challenges – bleeding feet, nerves, and fear – yet, like de Mille, their passion carries them through.

As you watch the magic unfold tonight, we hope it inspires you to find your own passion. And as we look ahead, we are excited to bring The Sleeping Beauty to the stage this spring. Enjoy the show and remember, like our performers, never stop pursuing your passion.

*With gratitude,
Jennifer & Stephen*

*Jennifer Czekai Stephen Sanford
Executive Director Artistic Director*

WMYB BIOGRAPHIES



JENNIFER CZEKAI - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer brings 30 years of experience in marketing, business strategy, and financial acumen, working with top brands like Kroger, Meijer, Chevrolet, and SpartanNash, as well as non-profits like John Ball Zoo. With expertise in event planning, development, and team building, Jennifer has helped drive success for both corporate and non-profit organizations. She and her husband of 26 years have lived in West Michigan for over 20 years, currently in Ada, and enjoy providing a warm and loving home to retired greyhounds.



STEPHEN SANFORD - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER

Stephen began his professional performing career with the Grand Rapids Ballet Company in 2001. As a principal dancer, he has collaborated with renowned choreographers and ballet masters from around the globe, including Francia Russell, Daniel Duell, Paul Boos, Mario Radacovsky, Kirk Peterson, Wes Chapman, Gordon Peirce Schmidt, Charthel Arthur Estner, and Olivier Wevers, among others. His repertoire spans classical and neo-classical works, with notable lead performances in George Balanchine's iconic ballets such as *Apollo*, *Who Cares*, *Four Temperaments*, *Serenade*, *The Nutcracker*, *Valse Fantaisie*, *Rubies*, *Stars and Stripes*, and *Concerto Barocco* and Gerald Arpino's *Light Rain*. Stephen's talent has also graced numerous ballet companies as a guest artist, including New York Theater Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Geiger Ballet, Southold Dance Theater, and Ohio Theatre Ballet. In addition to his performing career, Stephen has dedicated over 25 years to teaching ballet. He has taught advanced and master classes at institutions like Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Ballet School, and currently for Ada Dance Academy, Ballet Chicago, and Deos Contemporary Company. Since 2015, Stephen has served as the Artistic Director of West Michigan Youth Ballet, guiding hundreds of young dancers and nurturing their passion for dance through productions like *Coppélia*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and most recently, *The Wizard of Oz*. Beyond his artistic endeavors, Stephen cherishes his role as a family man. He and his wife, Jennifer, along with their five children—Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nathan, and Lucy—are the heart of his life and inspiration.



Stephen would like to personally thank:

The Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members for all your support and vision. Marlene Kenneway and Brigitte Nelson for creating the West Michigan Youth Ballet and trusting my vision for the organization.

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

All of the participating dance schools and teachers for all your love and care in training these dancers.

All choreographers and staggers that helped us to prepare these dancers for their performance, particularly to Laura Berman, much love and respect for your continued support and dedication to these young artists.

WMYB's costume designer, Heather Cassady, her team and all our parent volunteers.

Carola Gulick for organizing the props, sets, storage, trailer, and our backstage crew.

Amy Feather for curating the boutique collection with a creative eye and artistic style.

Samantha Hendricks and Sarah Thromp for organizing and creating a wonderful environment for our guests at Clara's Tea Party.

Christina Stauffer for organizing the beautiful flowers for our dancers.

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

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

Nicole Bergsma and Greg Sanial for the responsibility of the WMYB treasury, we appreciate all your efforts.

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.

Samantha Hendricks, Jen Byrne, and Jennifer Sanford, along with their crew of volunteers on the marketing committee, to put our show out front on our social media platforms and bring our supporters into the theater.

Rachel Yenchar, as chairman of outreach with the team spearheading WMYB partnerships with GRPS Coit Elementary and into our local Retirement communities, enabling all ages an opportunity to experience ballet.

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

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

And lastly, to my supportive family, wife Jennifer and kids Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nate, and Lucy, who stand with me in supporting the West Michigan Youth Ballet and the work that we do in the dance community.

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 for GRB, 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 Michigan 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 WMYB.



HEATHER CASSADY - COSTUME DESIGNER, COSTUMER

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

Heather would like to thank her husband, John, and their children John, Katie, Joshua, and Katrina for all their love and support.





THE STORY OF CLARA'S NUTCRACKER

Music by Peter Olyich Tchaikovsky

On a foggy Christmas Eve in 1891, in the Stahlbaums' sitting room, family and friends merrily trimmed the tree. Clara, Fritz, and 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 her. 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.

GUEST PERFORMERS



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.



DAVE NAQUIN trained at Ballet Spartanburg in South Carolina and at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. From there, he joined Grand Rapids Ballet, where he performed leading roles such as Siegfried in Mario Radacovsky's *Black and White* and Tybalt in Radacovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*. Naquin's repertoire also includes Ulysses Dove's *Red Angels*, Kirk Petersen's Amazed in *Burning Dreams*, Brian Enos' *Cold Winters Waiting*, Paul Taylor's *Company B*, as well as George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, *Serenade*, *Who Cares?*, and *Rubies*. Since joining Oklahoma City Ballet in 2016, Naquin has performed in Agnes De Mille's *Rodeo*, Septime Webre's *ALICE (in wonderland)*, August Bournonville's *La Sylphide*, Sarah Tallman's *If These Walls Could Talk*, as well as Robert Mills' *Our Private Rooms*, *The Means to Fly*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*. In 2022, Dave has joined Eugene Ballet and has been enjoying his third season with them. Dave is happy to be back and is so proud of everyone at West Michigan Youth Ballet.



WILLIAM SCHUTTE 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 *The Music of Moulin Rouge* at Circle Theatre Grand Rapids. He is the owner of Kicks Dancewear, and a proud sponsor of West Michigan Youth Ballet. William would like to dedicate this performance to his father Richard.

GUEST PERFORMERS



WOLFGANG GOLUSKA started his dance journey at Elizabeth Williams School of Dance at age 8, where he focused on ballet while also studying tap and jazz. Wolfgang was eventually invited to guest dance with Children's Ballet Theater, which led to him to join their company for their 2018-2019 season. He has also attended summer intensives at Grand Rapids Ballet, Northeast Academy of Dance, Cincinnati Ballet, and New York Dance Project. At Grand Valley State University, Wolfgang studied ballet and modern dance technique along with dance history, dance costuming, dance on camera, choreography, urban dance, and dance pedagogy. While at GVSU, Wolfgang continued to perform as a guest dancer with various companies, including HIS Dance, Greater Lansing Ballet Company, and WMYB. In 2023, he graduated with a B.A. in Dance. Currently, Wolfgang is dancing with CPR Dance: Inhale Movement for their sophomore season, as well as guest dancing with various groups around Michigan.



XANDER GOLUSKA is a Lansing-based dancer with over a decade of performance experience. He has been featured in performances with various groups, including the Children's Ballet Theatre and West Michigan Youth Ballet. He primarily performs with the Greater Lansing Ballet Company. Outside of dance, Xander is an Honors student at Michigan State University, pursuing a degree in Computer Science. He is thrilled to be dancing with WMYB again.



Special Thanks To Our Mother Gingers!

Debra Perry, Emily Blink, Shelley Irwin
Brandon Greer, Tiffany Evans

CAST	Saturday 1:00	Saturday 4:30
<i>Clara's Mom</i>	Evelyn Uzarski	Evelyn Uzarski
<i>Clara's Dad</i>	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska
<i>Party Parents 1</i>	Cooper Strait Cassie Hovinga	Connor Rapson Cassie Hovinga
<i>Party Parents 2</i>	Mayko Noriega Sophie Skerbeck	Mayko Noriega Emmalyn Strait
<i>Party Parents 3</i>	Carter Endres Dallas Everett	Carter Endres Dallas Everett
<i>Party Parents 4</i>	Xander Goluska Jaeda Selden	Xander Goluska Jaeda Selden
<i>Grandpa</i>	Jay Batzner	Jay Batzner
<i>Grandma</i>	Kristi Schneider	Kristi Schneider
<i>Clara</i>	Sophie Gietzen	Mikayla Ismail
<i>Fritz</i>	Nathan Sanford	Allisun Lancaster
<i>Party Boys</i>	Lydia Rottman, Nate Sanford, Scarlett Noriega, Clara Schultz, Sarah Faulkner, Amelia Dennis, Lorelai Feeny, Allisun Lancaster, Madeleine Stauffer	
<i>Party Girls</i>	Ella Rottman, Mina Jacobs, Molly Tate, Ella DeWildt, Natalia Schaap, Olivia Wisser, Gabrielle Beezhold, Lauren Hendricks	
<i>Maids</i>	Bailey Taylor, Abigail Carlisle, Autumn Everett, Emilyn Conn, Savanna Williams	
<i>Drosselmeyer</i>	William Schutte	William Schutte
<i>Nephew/Nutcracker</i>	Connor Rapson	Cooper Strait
<i>Harlequin Dolls</i>	Stella Gulick Mars Maiden	Aubrey Doyle Mars Maiden
<i>Soldier Doll</i>	Macy Satterthwaite	Katherine Wisser
<i>Pointe Soldiers</i>	Charlotte Biersack, Charlotte Watson, Lexie White, Lynnlee Ashton, Emily Bass, Sam Batzner, Livia Burnson, Lucy Langejans, Emily McGlinchey, Charley Sanial, Sammy Weaver, Madison Worvey, Shay Duffy, Emily Faulkner, Norah Newberg, Deidra Uzarski	
<i>Little Mice</i>	Colin Gietzen, Monte Hill, Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Harper Mitchell, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Jocelyn Schaap	
<i>Mouse Empress</i>	Emmalyn Strait	Sophie Skerbeck

Sunday 1:00	Sunday 4:30	Frauenthal
Evelyn Uzarski	Sara Primeau	Sara Primeau
Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska
Cooper Strait	Cooper Strait	
Cassie Hovinga	Cassie Hovinga	Cassie Hovinga
Mayko Noriega	Mayko Noriega	
Sophie Skerbeck	Emmalyn Strait	Sophie Skerbeck
Carter Endres	Carter Endres	Carter Endres
Dallas Everett	Dallas Everett	Dallas Everett
Xander Goluska	Xander Goluska	Xander Goluska
Jaeda Selden	Jaeda Selden	Jaeda Selden
Jay Batzner	Jay Batzner	Jay Batzner
Daria Batzner	Daria Batzner	Daria Batzner
Charley Sanial	Cate Afman	Leah Selleck
Scarlett Noriega	Clara Schultz	Nathan Sanford
Lydia Rottman, Nate Sanford, Scarlett Noriega, Clara Schultz, Sarah Faulkner, Amelia Dennis, Lorelai Feeny, Allisun Lancaster, Madeleine Stauffer		
Ella Rottman, Mina Jacobs, Molly Tate, Ella DeWildt, Natalia Schaap, Olivia Wissler, Gabrielle Beezhold, Lauren Hendricks		
Bailey Taylor, Abigail Carlisle, Autumn Everett, Emilyn Conn, Savanna Williams		
William Schutte	William Schutte	William Schutte
Connor Rapson	Connor Rapson	Cooper Strait
Stella Gulick	Aubrey Doyle	Stella Gulick
Mars Maiden	Mars Maiden	Mars Maiden
Iris Adamczak	Mikena Ismail	Maja Vidinlic
Charlotte Biersack, Charlotte Watson, Lexie White, Lynnlee Ashton, Emily Bass, Sam Batzner, Livia Burnson, Lucy Langejans, Emily McGlinchey, Charley Sanial, Sammy Weaver, Madison Worvey, Shay Duffy, Emily Faulkner, Norah Newberg, Deidra Uzarski, Sophie Gietzen		
Colin Gietzen, Monte Hill, Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Harper Mitchell, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Jocelyn Schaap		
Emmalyn Strait	Sophie Skerbeck	Emmalyn Strait

CAST	Saturday 1:00	Saturday 4:30
<i>Battle Soldiers</i>	Audrey Blink, Allison Greer, Audrey Biersack, Julianna Hamman, Rebekah Holland, Jahziah Camp, Mila Selden, Alexa Wilson, Ava Stauffer, Leila Thompson	
<i>Lieutenants</i>	Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Carter Endres	
<i>Snow Queen</i>	Ella Yenchar	Hadley Breit
<i>Snow King</i>	Dave Naquin	Darrell Haggard
<i>Snow Quartet</i>	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Josie Sulka
	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma
	Sara Primeau	Sara Primeau
	Berkleigh Carol	Berkleigh Carol
<i>Snow Ensemble</i>	Iris Adamczak, Cate Afman, Lydia Boucher, Caylee Miller, Mikayla Ismail, Evelyn Uzarski, Katherine Wisser, Madelyne Frang, Vanessa Ward, Aubrey Doyle, Carli Mais, Leah Selleck, Elaina Sanford, Marisa Miller, Hadley Breit, Ren Keast, Mikena Ismail, Sydney Byrne, Cassie Hovinga, Maja Vidinlic, Mileah Ismail, Meagan Conn, Sophie Gietzen, Ella Yenchar, Stella Gulick, Macy Satterthwaite, Berkleigh Carol, Sara Primeau	
	Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Lucy Sanford, Harper Mitchell, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Jocelyn Schaap	
	Macy Satterthwaite	
	Carli Mais	
	Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Harper Mitchell, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Lorelai Feeny, Jocelyn Schaap	
	Charlotte Biersack, Lexie White, Charley Sanial, Lynnlee Ashton, Emily Bass, Sam Batzner, Madison Worvey, Lucy Langejans, Emily McGlinchey, Shay Duffy, Norah Newberg, Deidra Uzarski, Livia Burnson, Emily Faulkner, Charlotte Watson	
	Mars Maiden, Aubrey Doyle, Stella Gulick	
	Abigail Carlisle, Autumn Everett, Gabrielle Beezhold, Ava Stauffer, Emilyn Conn, Dallas Everett, Savanna Williams, Emmalyn Strait, Sophie Skerbeck, Jaeda Selden, Olivia Wisser	
<i>Arabian Lead</i>	Maja Vidinlic	Sara Primeau
	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska

Sunday 1:00	Sunday 4:30	Frauenthal
Audrey Blink, Allison Greer, Audrey Biersack, Julianna Hamman, Rebekah Holland, Jahziah Camp, Mila Selden, Alexa Wilson, Ava Stauffer, Leila Thompson		
Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Carter Endres		
Marisa Miller	Mileah Ismail	Ren Keast
Darrell Haggard	Dave Naquin	Darrell Haggard
Josie Sulka	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Josie Sulka
Emma Diaz-Lawton	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma
Sara Primeau	Carli Mais	Carli Mais
Berkleigh Carol	Elaina Sanford	Elaina Sanford
Iris Adamczak, Cate Afman, Lydia Boucher, Caylee Miller, Mikayla Ismail, Evelyn Uzarski, Katherine Wisser, Madelyne Frang, Vanessa Ward, Aubrey Doyle, Carli Mais, Leah Selleck, Elaina Sanford, Marisa Miller, Hadley Breit, Ren Keast, Mikena Ismail, Sydney Byrne, Cassie Hovinga, Maja Vidinlic, Mileah Ismail, Meagan Conn, Sophie Gietzen, Ella Yenchar, Stella Gulick, Macy Satterthwaite, Berkleigh Carol, Sara Primeau		
Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Lucy Sanford, Harper Mitchell, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Jocelyn Schaap		
Meagan Conn	Sydney Byrne	Madelyne Frang
Peyton Kooienga, Macy Langejans, Harper Mitchell, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Piper Seekell, Lorelai Feeny, Jocelyn Schaap		
Charlotte Biersack, Lexie White, Charley Sanial, Lynnlee Ashton, Emily Bass, Sam Batzner, Madison Worvey, Lucy Langejans, Emily McGlinchey, Shay Duffy, Norah Newberg, Deidra Uzarski, Livia Burnson, Emily Faulkner, Charlotte Watson		
Mars Maiden, Aubrey Doyle, Stella Gulick		
Abigail Carlisle, Autumn Everett, Gabrielle Beezhold, Ava Stauffer, Emily Conn, Dallas Everett, Savanna Williams Emmalyn Strait, Sophie Skerbeck, Jaeda Selden, Olivia Wisser		
Sara Primeau	Marisa Miller	Sara Primeau
Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska	Wolfgang Goluska

CAST	Saturday 1:00	Saturday 4:30
<i>Arabian Corp</i>	Sydney Byrne Elaina Sanford Mikena Ismail Cassie Hovinga	Sydney Byrne Elaina Sanford Mikena Ismail Cassie Hovinga
<i>Chinese Lead</i>	Charley Sanial	Emily McGlinchey
<i>Chinese Corp</i>	Julianna Hamman, Rebekah Holland, Madeleine Stauffer, Molly Tate, Natalia Schaap, Lauren Hendricks, Leila Thompson, Clara Schultz, Bailey Taylor, Alexa Wilson	
<i>Reed Flute Lead</i>	Sophia Bergsma	Hadley Breit
<i>Reed Flute Corp</i>	Berkleigh Carol Hadley Breit Marisa Miller Ella Yenchar	Sophia Bergsma Macy Satterthwaite Josie Sulka Ella Yenchar
<i>Russians</i>	Colin Gietzen, Monte Hill, Nathan Sanford, Ella DeWildt, Amelia Dennis, Mila Selden, Carter Endres, Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Cooper Strait, Connor Rapson	
<i>Mother Ginger</i>	Debra Perry	Emily Blink
<i>Clowns</i>	Emily McGlinchy Lexie White	Charlotte Watson Charley Sanial
<i>Bon Bons</i>	Audrey Blink, Allison Greer, Jocelyn Schaap, Audrey Biersack, Ella Rottman, Lydia Rottman, Sarah Faulkner, Jahziah Camp	
<i>Dew Drop</i>	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Ren Keast
<i>Flowers</i>	Vanessa Ward, Carli Mais, Mikayla Ismail, Meagan Conn, Cate Afman, Sara Primeau, Ren Keast, Mileah Ismail, Katherine Wissner, Madelyne Frang, Lydia Boucher, Leah Selleck, Caylee Miller, Evelyn Uzarski, Sammy Weaver, Iris Adamczak, Sophie Gietzen, Marisa Miller, Maja Vidinlic, Berkleigh Carol, Ella Yenchar, Sydney Byrne, Mikena Ismail, Cassie Hovinga, Hadley Breit, Elaina Sanford, Macy Satterthwaite	
<i>Butterflies</i>	Scarlett Noriega, Mina Jacobs, Allisun Lancaster, Madeleine Stauffer	
<i>Sugar Plum</i>	Josie Sulka	Emma Diaz-Lawton
<i>Cavalier</i>	Darrell Haggard	Dave Naquin



Sunday 1:00	Sunday 4:30	Frauenthal
Madelyne Frang	Madelyne Frang	Sydney Byrne
Iris Adamczak	Iris Adamczak	Elaina Sanford
Carli Mais	Carli Mais	Mikena Ismail
Macy Satterthwaite	Macy Satterthwaite	Cassie Hovinga
Sophie Gietzen	Lexie White	Charlotte Watson
<p>Julianna Hamman, Rebekah Holland, Madeleine Stauffer, Molly Tate, Natalia Schaap, Lauren Hendricks, Leila Thompson, Clara Schultz, Bailey Taylor, Alexa Wilson</p>		
Ren Keast	Berkleigh Carol	Vanessa Ward
Berkleigh Carol	Sophia Bergsma	Sophia Bergsma
Hadley Breit	Sara Primeau	Hadley Breit
Emma Diaz-Lawton	Emma Diaz-Lawton	Marisa Miller
Elaina Sanford	Mileah Ismail	Josie Sulka
<p>Colin Gietzen, Monte Hill, Nathan Sanford, Ella DeWildt, Amelia Dennis, Mila Selden, Carter Endres, Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Cooper Strait, Connor Rapson</p>		
Shelley Irwin	Brandon Greer	Tiffany Evans
Charlotte Watson	Livia Burnson	Lydia Boucher
Lexie White	Emily Faulkner	Caylee Miller
<p>Audrey Blink, Allison Greer, Jocelyn Schaap, Audrey Biersack, Ella Rottman, Lydia Rottman, Sarah Faulkner, Jahziah Camp</p>		
Josie Sulka	Vanessa Ward	Ella Yenchar
<p>Vanessa Ward, Carli Mais, Mikayla Ismail, Meagan Conn, Cate Afman, Sara Primeau, Ren Keast, Mileah Ismail, Katherine Wissner, Madelyne Frang, Lydia Boucher, Leah Selleck, Caylee Miller, Evelyn Uzarski, Sammy Weaver, Iris Adamczak, Sophie Gietzen, Marisa Miller, Maja Vidinlic, Berkleigh Carol, Ella Yenchar, Sydney Byrne, Mikena Ismail, Cassie Hovinga, Hadley Breit, Elaina Sanford, Macy Satterthwaite</p>		
<p>Scarlett Noriega, Mina Jacobs, Allisun Lancaster, Madeleine Stauffer</p>		
Sophia Bergsma	Josie Sulka	Emma Diaz-Lawton
Dave Naquin	Darrell Haggard	Dave Naquin





Academy

"Professional, yet Personal Instruction"

Expertise in:

- Classical Ballet • Contemporary
- Jazz • Tap • Hip Hop
- Lyrical/Acro • Musical Theater

**Let your cultivated passion
for dance bring joy to all!**

**With Love,
Stephen and Margie!**

***Congratulations on your
performance!***

6086 Fulton St E, Ada • (616) 676-9430 • adadanceacademy.com

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.



GRPS

WMYB is partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools' Coit Arts Academy to introduce ballet to students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Scholars have the opportunity to visit WMYB's studios, learn about backstage production, and attend a dress rehearsal.



WMYB continues to offer in-person and live stream options to local senior living facilities.



ICONSIGN

PERFECTING YOUR BRAND

DESIGN • FABRICATE • INSTALL

*We are proud to support
West Michigan Youth Ballet!*

iconsigncompany.com

Cleaning, pressing and dressing
Grand Rapids for 77 years



afendoulis
Cleaners & Tuxedos

Sign up for free pickup and delivery today

(906) 280-5186
skerbeck.com

SKERBECK
ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

***Congratulations
wmyb
on another
amazing
season!***

***From the
Watson Family***



OMSA

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

Congratulations West Michigan Youth Ballet!



Brant Erbenraut, DDS

5510 Cascade Rd SE Suite 100
616.957.4020

2140 Lake Michigan Dr. NW
616.791.9600

Kicks Dancewear

Proud
Sponsor of
West Michigan
Youth Ballet

2905 Breton Road SE, Grand Rapids MI 49512 • 616-776-5966



BENTON FAMILY DENTAL

bentonfamilydentalcare.com
(616) 361-0654

Benton Family Dental
congratulates
Lucy, Macy, and the
entire WMYB cast on
a magical Nutcracker
performance!



**Congratulations
Audrey and
Charlotte**



**...and all the
West Michigan
Youth Ballet
Dancers!**

**With love,
Mom, Dad & Wyatt**



BrightWave

PAIN THERAPY

For Approved, Therapeutic Class IV Laser Treatment

Promotes Cell Renewal and Restoration • Improves Range of Motion • Reduces Inflammation

WWW.BRIGHTWAVEPAINTHERAPY.COM

583 Ada Drive SE Ada MI 616.608.5551

***Congratulations
Lexie and
WMyB dancers!***

***With Love,
Matt & Jenny
White***



DANCING
into your
DREAM HOME

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!



GRETCHEN WILSON
REAL ESTATE AGENT

616-204-9608

ROGERSNEIGHBORHOODREALTY.COM



GRAND RIVER ORTHODONTICS

CONGRATULATIONS COLIN AND ALL THE WMYB DANCERS!



1335 W. Main St, Suite D, Lowell, MI 49331 • 616-897-0200

IMPRINT DANCE CO.



IMPRINTDANCECO.COM

good luck
DANCERS



"leave a lasting impression"



*Congratulations
Sophie!*



*Love,
Mom, Dad
and Colin*





Thornhills Plaza

Supports the
West Michigan Youth Ballet!

Cascade Printing

Parooz

Sugar Momma's

Salon Verity

The Tailors

Life Chiropractic

Cascade Shoe

Fuchsia Design

Intentional Ink

Unity Jiu Jitsu

Tutu Brilliance

Pacific Massage

The Mortgage Company

Cascade Fur Salon

Tsaturova Law

*Visit us at the corner of
Thornhills Drive and 28th Street!*

**Scarlett,
Your uniqueness
is your superpower;
embrace it and let it
light up the world!**

**Love,
Mom, Dave,
and Ruby**



SCHULER BOOKS

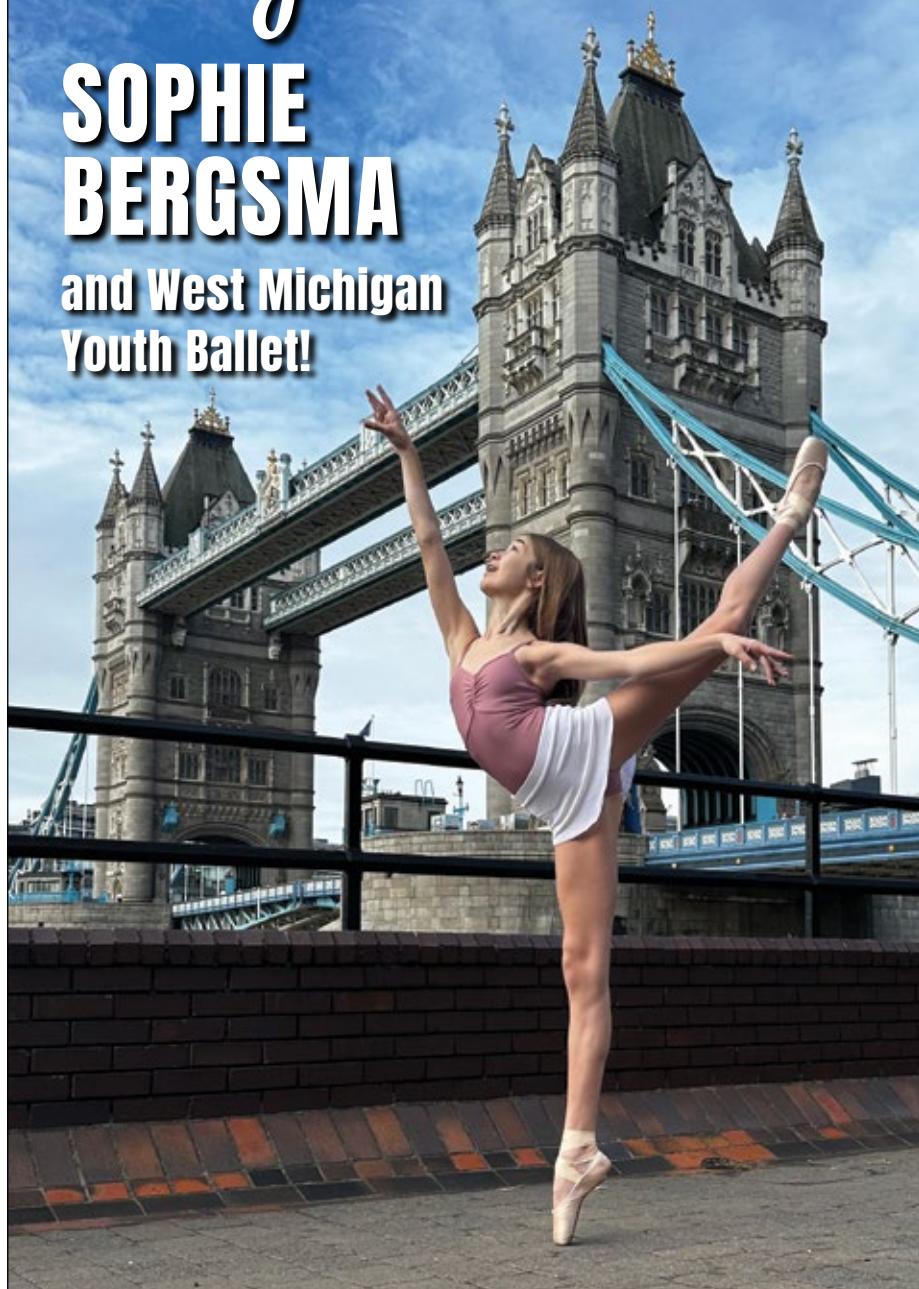
BOOKS • TOYS • GAMES • PUZZLES • STATIONERY • GIFTS

2660 28th St. SE | Schulerbooks.com | 616.942.2561

Congratulations

SOPHIE BERGSMA

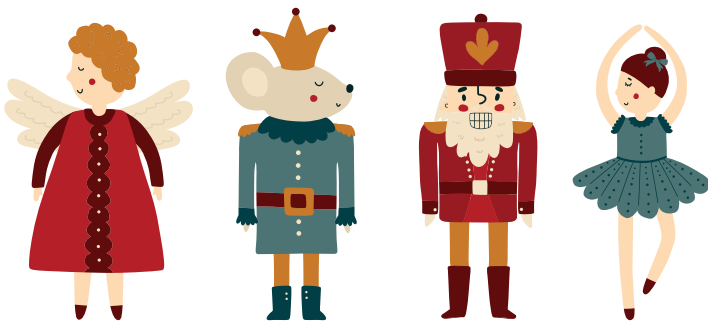
**and West Michigan
Youth Ballet!**





***Congratulations to all
dancers, parents, and
volunteers on another
fantastic season.***

***Charley, Eva,
and Greg Sanial***





***Congratulations Livia
and all of the
WMyB dancers.
We are proud of you!
Love, Your Family***



LALO'S
MEXICAN BAR & GRILLE

6749 Fulton St E, Ada, MI 49301
616-682-5274 • lalosmexicangrillbar.com



Mika Meyers is proud to support the West Michigan Youth Ballet dancers and volunteers whose talents and efforts bring the magic of the ballet to life.

Giving back isn't just our responsibility. It's our passion.

We are a law firm that gets you because we're real people involved in this community who understand your personal or business issues. For any legal need, we will meet you right where you are, delivering a blend of accessibility, versatility, and results driven representation that's second to none.

mikameyers.com

GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE

CATS

NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2024

50 DIVISION AVE N DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS
TICKETS: GRCT.ORG 616.222.6650

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

550 SETTLERS DRIVE
ADA, MICHIGAN
616.942.9886

CASCADE
LIVE EYEWEAR SINCE 1977
OPTICAL



Everyone at NAI Wisinski of West Michigan is proud of the entire cast of the West Michigan Youth Ballet!

NAI Wisinski of
West Michigan

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES, WORLDWIDE

Grand Rapids | Kalamazoo | 616.575.7047 | naiwww.com

CONGRATS TO OUR WMYB SENIORS!



MARISA MILLER

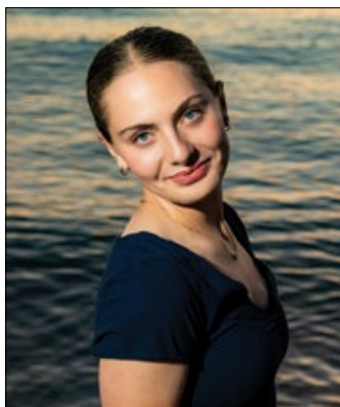
Being part of West Michigan Youth Ballet will be an experience I will never forget. I have been in the shows for many years and have made memories to last a lifetime. I'm so grateful for all the friendships I've made through being part of the WMYB family. As my time on stage comes to an end, I can look back and appreciate every opportunity and role I have been given. I will forever treasure these performances, as they hold a special place in my heart. Thank you to Stephen Sanford and Laura Berman for always pushing me in rehearsals and offering the best guidance possible. Another big thank you to my parents for their continued support and encouragement every year. I would also like to recognize and thank all the volunteers at WMYB, the show truly wouldn't be possible without all of you! Lastly, I wanted to thank all of my family and friends who have come to watch me perform year after year. Your support means the world. Participating in WMYB has been truly unforgettable and I cannot wait to take everything I've learned here with me into my next stages in life.



SARA PRIMEAU

This is my fourth and final year with WMYB, and my sixteenth year dancing overall. I also dance in Traverse City at Ballet Etc, competing at ballet competitions, showing works at festivals, and honing my technique. These past years with WMYB are some of my most cherished memories. I have had the honor of dancing my favorite classical roles such as Snow Queen, Arabian, and Stepsister; wearing the most beautiful costumes thanks to Ms. Heather. I have grown tremendously in dance under the guidance of Mr. Stephen and Ms. Laura. Their advice and attention has made me the ballet dancer I am today. I am so grateful to all the teachers and coaches who have supported my dance journey. I plan to go on to major in dance in college. Although I am undecided on where I will attend, I am so excited to open this new chapter of my life, carrying all the wonderful friendships and knowledge I have gained from my time with WMYB. It is so bittersweet to take my final bow with WMYB, but I am so grateful to have been a part of such a wonderful production that its hard to say goodbye.

CONGRATS TO OUR WMYB SENIORS!



SOPHIE SKERBECK

Sophie is a graduating senior at West Ottawa High School. She is an academic scholar, with multiple AP and IB classes under her belt. She intends to major in Journalism while at university. Sophie works every summer for her family's carnival company where she operates a game concession booth and entertains the public at large outdoor events. Diligent and hard-working, Sophie is thrilled to be a part of the WMYB performance of *The Nutcracker*, as ballet is her favorite dance genre.

We are so grateful to these studios for sharing their talented students with WMYB.

3:4 Classical Arts Ballet Studio

Academy of Dance Arts

Ada Dance Academy

Ballet Etc.

Center Stage Dance Academy

Dance Dimensions

Dance Revolutions

Dance United

David Matthews Studio

Fine Arts School of Dance

Grand Rapids Ballet

Hearts in Motion

Imprint Dance Company

Integrity Dance Arts

LoMI Studios

Michigan Youth Ballet Theater School

Mt. Pleasant School of Dance

Relevé Dance Studio

Rhythm Dance

Rockford Dance Company

Verity Ballet

Xpressions of Praise Christian Dance
& Performing Arts

Phase 3 Graphics
supports the arts

P3G
PHASE 3 GRAPHICS
Professional Printers Since 1975

WEST MICHIGAN'S SMALL BUSINESS PRINTER



20% OFF

BRING THIS AD IN FOR
 20% OFF ANY ONE ITEM
 AT THE BOUTIQUE

*Congratulations
 WMYB dancers!*

HMD BOUTIQUE

523 ADA DR. SE ♥♥♥ HMDBOUTIQUE.COM
 MAGICAL DANCE CLASSES | CHARMING SHOP | FANCIFUL EVENTS

WMYB DANCERS



IRIS ADAMCZAK is an 8th grader at Byron Center West. She has been dancing since 2021 and this is her fourth time in *The Nutcracker*. She dances with the Academy of Dance Arts. She loves to hang out with friends or go shopping with mom. Iris thanks her parents for their support and driving her to rehearsals and WMYB for this opportunity.



CATE AFMAN is 14 years old and in 9th grade at GR Christian High. She has been dancing since age 3. Cate dances with the Ada Dance Academy competition team. Cate loves animals and likes to spend time outside, especially at the beach. She thanks her family, friends, and God. Cate is especially grateful to be in another WMYB performance!



LYNNLEE ASHTON is 12 years old and in 7th grade at Northern Hills. She is part of the competition team at Academy of Dance Arts. This is her second *Nutcracker* with WMYB. Lynnlee loves performing and is so thankful for all the friends and memories she's made here at WMYB. She thanks her family, friends, and teachers for always supporting her.



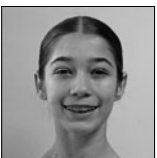
EMILY BASS is in 7th grade, is homeschooled, and attends Epic Homeschool Academy. She has been dancing for 8 years and ballet is her favorite style of dance. She is currently dancing at Grand Rapids Ballet and is thankful for the opportunities she has.



SAM BATZNER is in the 7th grade at Renaissance Public School Academy in Mt. Pleasant and has been dancing since she was 3. This is her 5th WMYB production and she currently dances at the Mt. Pleasant School of Dance.



GABRIELLE BEEZHOLD is 13 years old and dances with LoMI Studios. She has danced for 9 years. Her favorite style is Jazz but has trained in all genres. She loves being on stage at competitions and in *The Nutcracker*. Her favorite thing about dance is being with friends and her teachers. She also enjoys running, working out, painting, and sketching.

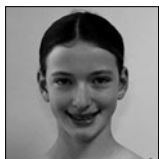


SOPHIA BERGSMA is 15 and a sophomore at Lowell High School. She danced at Ada Dance Academy for 12 years, 8 with WMYB. She attended the School of American Ballet's summer program and spent a week at the Royal Ballet School last summer. She thanks her family, friends, and dance teachers for their guidance and support.

WMYB DANCERS



AUDREY BIRSACK is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Pine Ridge Elementary. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and this is her second year in *The Nutcracker*. In her free time she likes to swim, ski, play soccer, and dance. She would like to thank her family for all their love and support.



CHARLOTTE BIRSACK is a 6th grader at Goodwillie Environmental School. She has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy for the last five years and is excited to join the competition team this year. She loves to draw, bake sweet treats, ski, and hang out with friends. She thanks her parents and dance teachers for all their support.



AUDREY BLINK is a 3rd grader at Knapp Forest Elementary. She has been dancing for almost 2 years at Rhythm Dance Center. She is very excited to be a part of her first *Nutcracker* production! Audrey thanks her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and her Guardian Angel, Papa, for their constant love.



LYDIA BOUCHER is 15 years old and a 9th grader at Lakewood High School. She has been dancing with Center Stage Dance Academy since she was 4. This is her third *Nutcracker* season with West Michigan Youth Ballet. She thanks all of her dance teachers and family for supporting her passion for dance.



HADLEY BREIT is 16 years old and in 11th grade at Byron Center. She has been dancing for 9 years at Ada Dance Academy and 6 years with WMYB. She enjoys hanging out with her friends. Hadley is so excited to perform in this year's *Nutcracker* and would like to thank her teachers, family, friends, and God for making everything possible.



LIVIA BURNSON is a 7th grader at Forest Hills Central. She has with Ada Dance Academy for 9 years and with WMYB for 5 years. When not dancing, she spends time with family and friends, playing basketball, babysitting, or playing with her bunny, Willow. She appreciates all of the love and support from her dance teachers, family, and friends.



SYDNEY BYRNE is 14 years old and currently attending Forest Hills Northern. When she's not dancing she loves baking, painting, and sewing. Sydney has been dancing for 9 years. She wants to thank all of her family, friends, and all the great people at WMYB for all of their love and support.

WMYB DANCERS



JAHZIAH CAMP is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy. This is Jahziah's 2nd year dancing, and her 2nd show with WMYB. Jahziah loves dancing, shopping, fashion, and hanging with her friends and family!



ABIGAIL CARLISLE is an 11-year-old 6th grade homeschooler. She loves dancing, reading, and “glamping” with her grandparents. She has been dancing for 6 years, currently with Ada Dance. She thanks her Heavenly Father for her gift of dance, Mr. Stephen, Ms. Margie, and Ms. Erica for guidance and wisdom, and her family for love and support!



BERKLEIGH CAROL is a sophomore at St. Mary School in Lake Leelanau. Dancing since age 3, she is currently with Ballet Etc. and Embodied Arts Collective in Traverse City. This is Berkleigh's 4th year with WMYB. Berkleigh thanks God for her talents, parents for support, dance teachers for guidance, and WMYB for this opportunity to perform.



EMILYN CONN is 13 and an 8th grader at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. This is her fifth season doing *The Nutcracker*. Her home studio is Imprint Dance Company, where she has been dancing for 12 years and competing for 8 years. She thanks her family, friends, and dance instructors for their encouragement and support.



MEAGAN CONN is a junior at Forest Hills Eastern. She has danced with WMYB for 7 years, at Imprint Dance Company for 15, and on their competition team for 11. She is also on the FHNE Varsity Dance Team. She does dance modeling under Rachel Noel Studios. She thanks her dance and school teachers for their kind advice and help.



AMELIA DENNIS is 12 years old and in 6th grade at Eastern Middle School. This is her 2nd *Nutcracker* season with WMYB. Amelia is in her 9th season dancing on the Imprint Dance Company competition team. Amelia enjoys baking, reading, and playing games. Amelia wants to thank her dance teachers and her very supportive family.



ELLA DeWILDT is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy, and this is her fourth show with WMYB. When she's not dancing, she loves to play volleyball and hang out with her friends. Ella is thankful for her family, friends, and wonderful dance teachers.

WMYB DANCERS



EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON is 15 years old and a sophomore at FHN. She has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for the past 12 years and with WMYB for the past 7. Emma has attended summer programs with Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. She thanks her family and teachers for their endless love and support.



AUBREY DOYLE is in 7th grade at Eastern Middle. This is her fourth season with WMYB. She has previously performed in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Wizard of Oz*. Aubrey dances at Ada Dance Academy and has competed in local and national competitions. She thanks her family, friends, and teachers for their support.



SHAY DUFFY is 14 years old and a 9th grader at Forest Hills Eastern High School. She has been taking classes at Ada Dance Academy since the age of 3. This is Shay's 3rd year dancing with WMYB. She would like to thank all of her teachers, family, friends, and God for all the love and support.



CARTER ENDRES is a freshman at Lowell. In *The Nutcracker* for the 4th time, he eagerly shares the stage this season with his younger brother, Monte. He expresses himself through music and fashion and approaches every opportunity with originality. Carter values his friendships and the joy of shared experiences.



AUTUMN EVERETT is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Lakewood Middle School. She has danced at Center Stage Dance Academy for the 9 years. This is her 2nd year with WMYB. She enjoys camping, hanging out with friends, and getting Starbucks before dance competitions. Autumn thanks her dance teachers and family for love and support.



DALLAS EVERETT is 14 years old and in 8th grade at Lakewood Middle School. She has been dancing for the last 9 years at Center Stage Dance Academy. This is her 3rd year with WMYB. She enjoys camping, hunting, and hanging out with friends. Dallas thanks her dance teachers and family for all the love and support this year!



EMILY FAULKNER is 12 years old and in 7th grade at Central Middle School. She has been dancing since she was 2 and is currently at Imprint Dance Company. This is Emily's fourth year with WMYB and she is grateful for the opportunities they provide.

WMYB DANCERS



SARAH FAULKNER is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Pine Ridge Elementary. She has been dancing since she was 2, currently at Imprint Dance Company. This is Sarah's second year with WMYB and she is grateful for the opportunities they provide.



LORELAI FEENY is 9 years old and a 4th grader at Wealthy Elementary. Lo has been dancing for six years and dances for Hearts in Motion Dance as part of the competition team. This is her second year performing with WMYB. Besides dancing, she enjoys drawing, reading, and playing piano. She thanks her family for their love and support.



MADELYNE FRANG is a freshman at Reeths-Puffer High School. She's been dancing for 10 years and is currently with Relevé Dance in Whitehall. This is her fourth *Nutcracker* with WMYB. She wants to thank God, her teachers, family, and friends for the support and opportunities that she's blessed with to help her grow as a dancer and as a person.



COLIN GIETZEN is 9 years old and in 3rd grade at Thornapple Elementary. He dances with Hearts in Motion. This is his second year performing with WMYB. He plays soccer, tennis, basketball, golf, and swims. He thanks his family and teachers for their support. He is especially excited for his big sister Sophie to be Clara this year.



SOPHIE GIETZEN is a 7th grader at Forest Hills Central. She has been dancing since age 3 and currently dances at Ada Dance Academy. This is her fifth season with WMYB and she loves getting to dance with her little brother, Colin. She also enjoys golf, skiing, volleyball, and basketball. She thanks her instructors, friends, and family for support.



ALLISON GREER is 9 years old and a 4th grader at Pine Ridge Elementary in Forest Hills. Allie has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy since she was 3. This is the 3rd WMYB production Allie has been in. She is thankful for her family, her dog, and everyone at WMYB and Ada Dance Academy.



STELLA GULICK is a 7th grader at Northern Hills Middle. She dances at Ada Dance and also competes with the YAGP and UBC teams. This is her 8th WMYB show. Her favorite part of *The Nutcracker* is the fun costumes and performing with her best friends. She thanks her family and her dedicated coaches for always supporting her dance career.

WMYB DANCERS



JULIANNA HAMMAN is 10 years old and a 5th grader at Sacred Heart Academy. She has been in dance since she was 3, and is currently on the Petites Team at Rhythm Dance Center. This is her first performance with WMYB. She loves spending time with her family and friends, especially her 4 younger siblings and pet bird, Greta.



LAUREN HENDRICKS is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Lowell Middle School. Her home studios are Fine Arts School of Dance and Ada Dance Academy. This is her 3rd season with WMYB! A special thanks to all of the friends and family that make the trip to support Lauren's love of dance each year!



MONTE HILL is 8 years old and is making his debut in *The Nutcracker* after dancing for only a year. He follows in the footsteps of his brother, Carter, and the two get the opportunity to share the stage together. Monte also enjoys playing sports and expressing his unique creative self through art, his clothing, and building with Legos.



REBEKAH HOLLAND is in 5th grade at Calvary Christian. Dancing since she was 4 years old, this is her first performance with WMYB. She currently takes lessons at Relevé Dance Studio. She thanks her teachers, friends, family, and the Lord for helping her get this far. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to dance with WMYB!



CASSIE HOVINGA is 15 years old and excited to be in *The Nutcracker* again. She is a sophomore at Forest Hills Central. Cassie has been dancing since age 4. She is in competitive dance at Imprint Dance Studio and is on the FHC Varsity Dance Team. She loves to spend time with friends. She appreciates her parents for their love and support.



MIKAYLA ISMAIL is 13 years old and attends Lowell Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. She loves listening to the musical *Hamilton*, running cross-country, running track, and going to the gym. She would like to thank God, her dance instructors, family, and friends for their wonderful support.



MIKENA ISMAIL is 15 years old and a sophomore at Lowell High School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy. She enjoys dancing and running cross-country. Mikena would like to thank God, her dance instructors, family, and friends for supporting her dream of dance.

WMYB DANCERS



MILEAH ISMAIL is 16 years old and a junior at Lowell High School. She enjoys dancing with Ada Dance Academy. She also enjoys spending time with friends, caring for her family's 12 pets, and dancing multiple styles of dance. Mileah thanks God, her dance instructors, family, and friends for supporting her passion of dancing.



MINA JACOBS is 11 years old and in 5th grade at Baldwin Heights. She is excited to be in her 2nd *Nutcracker*. This is her 5th year of dance; 4th year competitively at Hearts in Motion. Mina loves performing with HCAT, reading books, and exploring nature. Thank you to WMYB, her HMD teachers, family and friends for their continued love and support.



REN KEAST is a sophomore at Forest Hills Central and a member of the Varsity Dance Team. She has participated in numerous competitions, achieving a Top 24 placement at YAGP 2023. This is her debut with WMYB, and she is thrilled to showcase her talent. Ren thanks her family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support.



PEYTON KOOIENGA is 9 years old and homeschooling for 3rd grade. This is her first performance with WMYB, and she is so excited for the experience! She has been dancing for 5 years; 4 years at Integrity Dance Arts in Byron Center. Peyton also enjoys spending time with her friends, roller blading, biking, camping, and practicing gymnastics.



ALLISUN LANCASTER is in 6th grade and has danced with Ada Dance Academy since she was 2½ years old. She is very excited to dance the role of Clara's brother, Fritz, this year. She enjoys playing with her cats and hanging out with friends. She thanks her teachers and the many volunteers at WMYB for helping her grow as an artist and young adult.



LUCY LANGEJANS is a 7th grader at FHE Middle. She is thrilled to be a pointe soldier and angel in her second *Nutcracker*. Lucy is on the competitive team at Rhythm Dance Center, and has danced there for 9 years. Special thanks to Miss Holly for support in ballet training, and Miss Jen and all the RDC teachers for instruction and encouragement.



MACY LANGEJANS is thrilled to be in her first season with WMYB. Macy is a 3rd grader at Knapp Forest. She started dancing at age 3 at Rhythm Dance Center and is on their petite competitive team. Macy also enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends. She wants to thank her dance instructors and her family for their love and support.

WMYB DANCERS



MARS MAIDEN is 14 and in 9th grade at Grand Rapids Montessori High School. This is his 4th year with WMYB. Mars's home studio is Imprint Dance Company, where he receives instruction in a variety of dance styles. He is in his 6th year on the competition team. Mars thanks his teachers and family for the many learning opportunities.



CARLI MAIS is 16 years old and a junior at Forest Hills Eastern. She has been dancing for 12 years and is a student at Ada Dance Academy. Carli is also on the FHNE Varsity Dance Team, and this is her 8th year with WMYB. She would like to thank her family and teachers for their love and support.



ELEANOR MASTERSON is 8 years old and in 3rd grade. She has been dancing since she was 2 years old at Hearts in Motion. This is her 1st show with WMYB. When she isn't dancing, she loves being outside and spending time with friends and family. *All your family and friends are so proud of you Eleanor!*



EMILY McGLINCHEY is 12 years old and a 7th grader at Northern Hills Middle School. She has been dancing for 4 years. This will be her 3rd year dancing for WMYB. She thanks my family, instructors, and friends for all their support and encouragement.



CAYLEE MILLER is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Ionia Middle School. She has been dancing for 10 years at Center Stage Dance Academy and 3 years for WMYB. She would like to thank God, her family, teachers, and friends for helping her reach her goals.



MARISA MILLER is 17 years old and a senior at Lowell High School. She has been dancing since age 3 and practices at Ada Dance Academy. This is her 6th year with WMYB. Outside of dance, she loves hanging out with friends, being outside in the sun, and shopping.



HARPER MITCHELL is thrilled to be performing in *Nutcracker*. She is 8 years old and dances at Imprint Dance Co. on the competitive team. She loves to express herself through dance and is excited to share the stage with her friends. Harper enjoys spending time drawing, singing, and exploring new adventures, always having "the best day ever!"

WMYB DANCERS



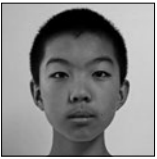
NORAH NEWBERG is 12 years old and a 7th grader at East Grand Rapids Middle School. She's been dancing for 8 years and dances at Imprint Dance Company. This is her first show with WMYB. She also likes to hang out with friends and read. Norah is thankful for all of her family, friends, and teachers' support.



SCARLETT NORIEGA is a 5th grader at Central Woodlands. Her passion for ballet started at age 2. She enjoys fashion design and playing with her sister Ruby. Her dedication to ballet and creative eye for style reflect her determination and love for the arts. Scarlett thanks her teachers, Mr. Stephen, Ms. Margie, Ms. Laura, Ms. Erica, and Ms. Erika.



SARA PRIMEAU is a senior at Traverse City St. Francis. Dancing since age 2, this is her 4th year with WMYB. Sara thanks Ms. Laura, Mr. Stephen, and Ms. Heather for their commitment to this wonderful company, and all the parents who worked tirelessly to put on a great production. Love to her family for their support and encouragement.



RAINER QIAO, 8th grade, has been dancing for 3 years and skating for 8. This marks his 2nd performance with WMYB. He enjoys reading, tennis, and piano. Rainer is grateful to his family, friends, and teachers for their continued support, with special appreciation for Mr. Stephen's guidance and inspiration in his dance journey.



RAY QIAO, an 8th grader at Northern, has been dancing for 3 years and figure skating for 8. This is his second year with WMYB. He enjoys tennis, piano, and violin. Ray is deeply grateful to the amazing teachers at Ada Dance, especially Mr. Stephen, whose encouragement and support have enriched his dance journey and helped him grow.



CONNOR RAPSON is a junior at Lowell High School. He began dancing three years ago and studies at Verity Ballet. Outside of dance, Connor is a member of the Grand Rapids Rowing Juniors' team and plays the trumpet in band. He would like to thank his family and instructors for their support of his dancing.

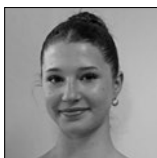


ELLA ROTTMAN is in 4th grade at Collins Elementary. She has danced since she was 2 years old and is excited for her fourth WMYB performance. Ella enjoys cheerleading, skiing, swimming, and playing with her dog Teddy. Thank you to WMYB, Ada Dance Academy, HMD, friends, and family for your continued love and support.

WMYB DANCERS



LYDIA ROTTMAN is in 4th grade at Pine Island Elementary. She has danced since she was 3 years old at Hearts in Motion and is excited for her first WMYB show! Lydia also enjoys cheerleading, horseback riding, skiing, and camping. She thanks God, her dance teachers, family, and friends for supporting her everyday!



ELAINA SANFORD is a freshman at West Catholic and has been at Ada Dance Academy since age 2, where she is on the competition teams. Elaina is grateful to her instructors for providing a strong classical ballet foundation and thanks her friends and family for their constant encouragement. This marks her 7th season with WMYB.



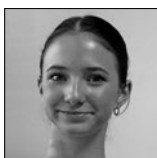
LUCY SANFORD is a 2nd grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. This is her first season with WMYB. Lucy has been at Ada Dance Academy since age 3. She enjoys summer days, jumping on the trampoline, and chocolate ice cream. Lucy is thankful for the love and support from her dance teachers Ms. Margie & Ms. Lisa, parents, siblings, and friends.



NATE SANFORD is a 4th grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School. He has three sisters, one brother, and a dog, Roxie. This is his 3rd season with WMYB, and he loves spending time with his dance friends. Nate thanks Mr. Stephen, Ms. Margie, and Ms. Erica from Ada Dance Academy for their guidance and for helping him prepare for his stage performances.



CHARLEY SANIAL is 12 and a 7th grader at GRCMS. She has danced for many years at Ada Dance Academy. This is her 4th season with WMYB, and she couldn't be more excited! In addition to dancing, she loves reading, playing the violin, and tinkering with VEX robotics. She would like to thank the volunteers and her dance teachers.



MACY SATTERTHWAITE is 14 years old and in 9th grade at Forest Hills Central High School. This is her first show with WMYB. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and being on the varsity dance team. Macy thanks Jesus, her family, friends, and teachers for their support.



JOCELYN SCHAAP is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at Cannonsburg Elementary School. This is her first year with WMYB and *The Nutcracker*. She has been dancing for 6 years, and dances at Rockford Dance Company. She enjoys hunting with her dad, drawing, and playing with Legos.

WMYB DANCERS



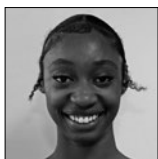
NATALIA SCHAAP is 11 years old and in 6th Grade at East Rockford Middle School. This is her first year with WMYB and *The Nutcracker*. She has been dancing for 8 years, and dances at Rockford Dance Company. She enjoys games, puzzles, and making art.



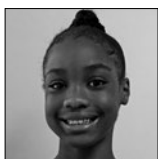
CLARA SCHULTZ is in 4th grade at Cherry Creek Elementary. Ballet is her passion, and this is her second year and third show with WMYB. When not dancing, she loves to create art, and be with her family and animals. She would like to thank her instructors at WMYB, as well as Ada Dance for their support in her continued growth.



PIPER SEEKELL is 9 years old and a 4th grader at St. Robert Catholic School. Dancing since age 4, she has spent the past two years at David Matthew Studio. This is her first year with WMYB. She enjoys playing soccer, making friendship bracelets, and being with family. Piper thanks her family and friends for their support during this season of dance.



JAEDA SELDEN is 15 years old and in 10th grade. She started ballet at age 6 through the City of Grand Rapids and developed her skills at Coit Creative Arts Academy. Jaeda dreams of pursuing dance professionally as an adult. Her passion shines through in every performance, as she continues to push her limits and inspire others.



MILA SELDEN is 11 years old. She joined Coit Creative Arts Academy at age 5, studying hip hop, African, and ballet. In 2023, Mila performed in WMYB's *Nutcracker*, an experience that sparked a deeper love for ballet. She embodies confidence, bringing both grace and passion to every movement, constantly seeking to grow and inspire through her art.



LEAH SELLECK is in 7th grade at FHN Middle, and attends Ada Dance Academy. This is her 9th year dancing and 8th WMYB performance. Leah is excited to be Clara at the Frauenthal Center this year. She thanks her WMYB friends for making it such a fun part of her week, the parent volunteers, Mrs. Laura, and Mr. Stephen for their dedication.



SOPHIE SKERBECK has been dancing since she was 5 years old in Fennville and Holland. Although a student of multiple genres, ballet is her favorite and the opportunity to perform with the WMYB for *The Nutcracker* provides her great joy. She is a graduating senior from West Ottawa High School.

WMYB DANCERS



AVA STAUFFER is 12 years old and in 7th grade at Northern Hills. She has been dancing for 9 years and this is her 5th season with WMYB. Ava enjoys reading, drawing, creative writing, and spending time with family, friends and her dog, Finn. Ava thanks her wonderful dance teachers for their ongoing encouragement of her love for dance.



MADELEINE STAUFFER is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Northern Trails. She has danced for 9 years and this is her 3rd season with WMYB. Madeleine enjoys reading, cheerleading, playing violin, and spending time with family, friends and her dog, Finn. She thanks her amazing teachers for continuing to help her achieve her dance goals.



COOPER STRAIT is a 15-year old 10th grader, who is currently being unschooled. He takes tap, jazz, musical theater, and ballet. He has been dancing for 5 years, and his favorite style is tap. He would like to thank his big sister for always having his back, and his dog, for always being there.



EMMALYN STRAIT is an 18-year old junior, currently being unschooled. She takes ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater, and contemporary. She has been dancing for 15 years, and her favorite style is musical theater. She would like to thank her mom and dad for their continued support, and her dog for always giving the best hugs.



JOSIE SULK is in 11th grade at Forest Hills Northern. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and this is her 8th year with WMYB. She attended summer intensives at Boston Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, and Ballet West and is competing at YAGP and UBC this year. She thanks her dance teachers, friends, and family for love and support.



MOLLY TATE is 11 years old and a 5th grade homeschooler. She has been dancing for 3 years at Ada Dance Academy. This is her 3rd show with WMYB but her first *Nutcracker*. She also enjoys reading, and hanging out with her cats and dance friends. Molly thanks her family, friends, and teachers for all their support.



BAILEY TAYLOR is an 11 year old homeschool student. This is her first time dancing with WMYB. She recently moved to Michigan. In 2023, she was in *The NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet* in San Antonio. She thanks Heather Stolle School of Dance for her first opportunity and WMYB for helping her dreams come true again.

WMYB DANCERS



LEILA THOMPSON is a 7th grader at Northern Hills Middle and has been dancing since she was 3. After a recent move from Idaho, Leila is very excited to be dancing at Ada Dance Academy. This is her first show with WMYB. Leila is an adventurous world traveler, enjoys baking, doing gel nails, and spending time with friends and family.



DEIDRA UZARSKI is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Lowell Middle. She has danced with Ada Dance Academy for 9 years. This is her debut in *The Nutcracker* with WMYB. Deidra inspires others to do their best always. She is active in Youth Group and Girl Scouts. She thanks her family, friends, instructors, and God for support.



EVELYN UZARSKI is a sophomore at Lowell High School. A dancer for 11 years, her vibrant personality and infectious smile comes out when she is on stage. She encourages her fellow dancers to have fun while maintaining a high level of expectations. Evelyn is active in theatre and Girl Scouts. She excels in school and loves to be outdoors.



MAJA VIDINLIC is in 11th grade at Forest Hills Central. She has been dancing since age 2. She dances at Imprint Dance Company and is on the Forest Hills Central Varsity Dance team. This is her 3rd Year dancing with WMYB and 2nd time in *The Nutcracker*. Maja would like to thank her family, friends, and all her teachers.



VANESSA WARD is a sophomore in the Kent ISD homeschool program. She has been dancing for 11 years and on pointe for 3 years. She is so excited to perform as Snow, Flowers, Dewdrop, and Reed Flute lead!



CHARLOTTE WATSON is in 6th grade at Central Woodlands. She's been dancing since the age 2. She's honored to be part of the competition team at Ada Dance. She enjoys spending time with friends, reading, and being a big sister to three siblings. She thanks her dance teachers, family, and friends for all the love and support.



SAMANTHA WEAVER is 12 years old and in 8th grade at Lakeshore Middle School. She has been dancing for 10 years and dances at Dance Revolutions. When she's not dancing, she enjoys mountain biking and has podiumed on the national level. She thanks God for her talents, her parents, and dance teachers.

WMYB DANCERS



LEXIE WHITE is in 6th grade at Northpointe Christian and trains at both Ada Dance Academy and Michigan Ballet Academy. She is excited to be in her seventh WMYB show. She thanks God for her talent, her wonderful dance teachers for diligent instruction, and family for supporting her dreams of professional ballet.



SAVANNA WILLIAMS is a 14-year-old homeschool student. Currently at The Space Dance Company, she previously trained at LoMi Dance and Caledonia Dance Center, performing in their *Nutcracker* for 8 years. This marks her first production with WMYB, and she is grateful for the opportunity! Savanna also enjoys drawing and traveling with family.



ALEXA WILSON is a 6th grader at John Ball Zoo School. This is her first year dancing at Ada Dance Academy and her second show with the WMYB. Alexa enjoys painting, camping, music, and snuggling her guinea pigs. She would like to thank her dance teachers and WMYB for this opportunity.



KATHERINE WISSER is 15 years old and a sophomore at City High Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and this is her 8th year with WMYB. She has been dancing since she was 6. She would like to thank her dance teachers for their guidance and her parents for their love and support.



OLIVIA WISSER is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Blandford School. She has been dancing for 7 years and this is her third year performing with WMYB. When not dancing, she is playing soccer, reading or spending time with friends and family. She would like to thank her family for their support and her dance instructors for their guidance.



MADISON WORVEY is 13 years old and in 7th grade. When she's not dancing, she enjoys camping, hanging with friends, and crochet. She thanks her family for their love and support.



ELLA YENCHAR is 16 years old and a sophomore at Ionia High School. She has danced at Ada Dance Academy for 9 years and WMYB for 7 years. She attended Cincinnati Ballet's summer intensive this past summer. She would like to thank her teachers, family, and friends for all of their support.



Be Bright. Be Strong. Be Kind.



Building for Life.

Michigan Contractor of the Year

2010 | 2013/2014 | 2015/2016 | 2017/2018 | 2019/2020 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023

DANVOSCONSTRUCTION.COM | 616.676.9169

ALLISON DEYOUNG CONCIERGE TRAVEL PLANNER

Complimentary expert planning for your next vacation
Specialist in Disney Destinations, Universal Orlando, cruising,
all-inclusive resorts, Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, and more!

(616) 550-1795

allison.deyoung@keytotheworldtravel.com



Salon Re:

Refresh Renew Revitalize

An Eco-Friendly Salon

TRUST YOUR SCHOOL

FOR
DOGS



APLEASANTDOG.COM



SERVING WEST MICHIGAN

Services

- PRESCRIPTIONS
- IMMUNIZATIONS
- GIFTS
- VITAMINS/SUPPLEMENTS
- STREP & FLU TESTING*

*Treatment available if positive test

Easy Transfer!

7505 River St. SE, Ada, MI
Across from Ada Market

Time to ditch the chain pharmacy and experience
the difference of a local family-owned pharmacy



ADA VILLAGE
PHARMACY
616 320-4001

SPECIAL THANKS

WMYB is so fortunate to have local businesses support us through advertisements and donations. Please patronize the businesses in this playbill who have so generously given back to their local youth.

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



Save The Date!

WMYB will again be offering a World-Class Ballet Intensive in June 2025. Check **wmyb.org** for more details in January 2025.

West Michigan
**YOUTH
BALLET**
Enrich. Inspire. Grow.



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

