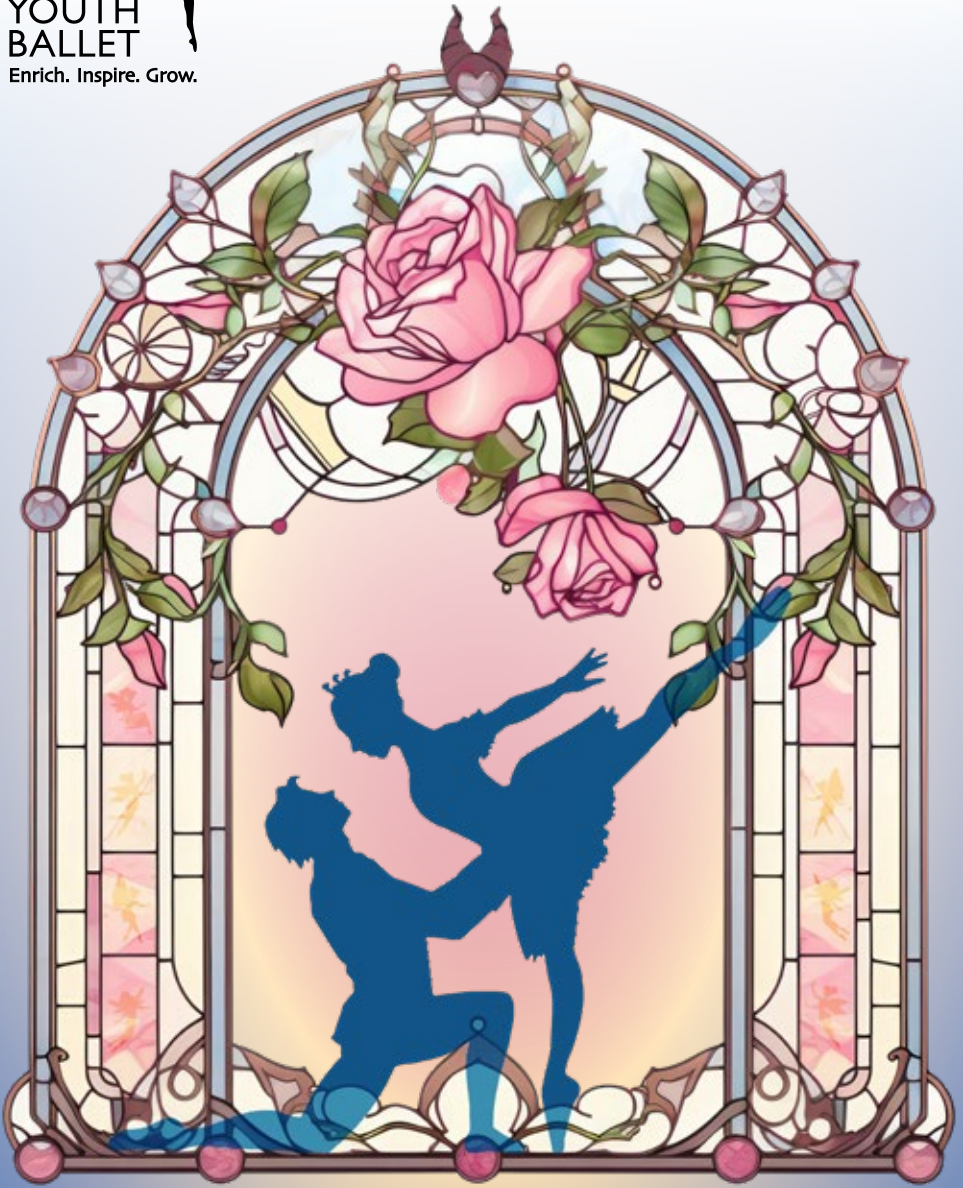


West
Michigan
**YOUTH
BALLET**
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the Sleeping Beauty

MARCH 29-30, 2025
1:00 & 4:30PM

FOREST HILLS
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ENDOWMENT
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SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM

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JUNE 9-13, 2025

SUMMER REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1 AT WMYB.ORG.



ALEXEY KULPIN
HARID CONSERVATORY

SUMMER MASTER CLASS

AUGUST 18-21

Alexey Kulpin is a graduate of the Institute of Culture and Art in St. Petersburg, Russia. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in ballet pedagogy and choreography. In 1998, he was the Grand Prix winner at the Muse of St. Petersburg Ballet Competition. As a professional dancer, Mr. Kulpin has performed soloist and principal roles in both classical and contemporary ballets in Russia, Israel, and the United States. He danced professionally with St. Petersburg State Opera Ballet, St. Petersburg State Male Theatre by Mihailovsky, Ballet Israel, City Ballet of San Diego, Grand Rapids Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theater, Stars of St. Petersburg Municipal Theater of Music and Dance, and Krasnoyarsk Dance Ensemble. His roles included Basilio in Don Quixote; James in La Sylphide; Prince Ivan in Firebird; Spirit of the Rose in Le Spectre de la Rose; Swan Lake Pas de Trois; and the male leads in Tarentella and Maurice Bejart's Trik Trak.

Mr. Kulpin specializes in teaching classical ballet, male and female variations, and character dance. His teaching career includes the Ballet Israel School, City Ballet of San Diego, Grand Rapids Ballet, and Charleston Ballet Company, where he taught company classes and served as director of the Charleston Ballet Young Artists Group. Most recently, he served as principal ballet teacher for Northern California Dance Conservatory. He has staged classical variations and choreographed solos for performance and ballet competitions, including Youth America Grand Prix. Mr. Kulpin joined The HARID Conservatory's faculty in August, 2016. He remains active as a guest teacher and a ballet-competition judge.



*Dear Friends,
Welcome to Sleeping Beauty.*

We believe in the power of performance—its ability to inspire, to elevate, and to transform. Ballet, at its best, is more than movement; it is a story told through discipline, artistry, and heart. And today, you are part of that story.

West Michigan Youth Ballet exists because young artists need a stage, a space to dream, to push beyond limits, and to discover what is possible. They dedicate hours to perfecting their craft—not for applause, but for the pursuit of something greater: excellence.

This production is a testament to their passion and to the unwavering support of parents, instructors, volunteers, and patrons like you. Without you, this stage would be empty, and these dreams would remain just that—dreams. Instead, because of your presence and generosity, they become reality.

This weekend is also a bittersweet moment for our company, as *The Sleeping Beauty* marks the final production under the direction of our Artistic Director, Stephen Sanford. For nearly a decade, Stephen has shaped and elevated WMYB with his vision, dedication, and artistry. His impact on our dancers and this organization is immeasurable, and while we will miss his leadership, we celebrate all that he has given and wish him nothing but success in his next chapter.

And as one chapter closes, another begins. We look forward to welcoming a new Artistic Director who will carry on our mission, inspire the next generation of dancers, and continue bringing extraordinary productions to life. The show will go on, and the dreams will continue.

So tonight, as the curtain rises, take a moment. Feel the energy. Witness the artistry. And know that you are part of something meaningful.

Thank you for believing in this company, these dancers, and the future of ballet.

With Gratitude,

The West Michigan Youth Ballet Board and Jennifer Czekai, Executive 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 Chris 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 Frania 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 *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:

Everyone who plays a role in making West Michigan Youth Ballet the incredible organization it is today.

All the participating schools and teachers—your love and dedication to these dancers shape them into passionate, educated artists. The caliber of WMYB productions is directly tied to your instruction, guidance, and commitment to instilling respect for the artform. We could not do what we do without you.

The entire West Michigan Youth Ballet staff and Board of Directors—you are among the hardest-working groups I've had the pleasure of collaborating with. Your diligence and organization ensure that every aspect of our productions—from choreography, costumes, sets, and props to tea parties, boutiques, playbills, and community outreach—is executed with excellence. Your sacrifices of time and talent make an immeasurable impact, and I am humbled by your unwavering commitment to WMYB and our dancers.

All our volunteers—your willingness to step up each week, whether in the studio or behind the scenes, makes all the difference. Thank you for giving your time, talents, and treasure to support these dancers and bring our productions to life. Your generosity and dedication are invaluable.

A special thank you to:

Marlene Kenneway and Brigitte Nelson for founding WMYB and laying the foundation for what we have built today.

Heather Cassady for her incredible vision in costuming, bringing our productions to life with every stitch and detail.

Laura Schwenk-Berman for her stunning choreography, unwavering dedication, and continuous support of our dancers and organization.

Carola Gulick for her time, dedication, and hard work on all the props and sets that enhance our performances.

Jane Pierangeli for her graphic design expertise and coordination of all marketing materials, including this playbill.

Samantha Hendricks and Jen Byrne for their tireless efforts in social media, public relations, and marketing support.

Jeremy Cox and Jane Bunting from the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center for their ongoing support and seamless collaboration.

All the parents—thank you for understanding the importance of participation, supporting your children's passion, and helping create an environment where they can thrive.

It is because of all of you that West Michigan Youth Ballet continues to grow and inspire. I am truly grateful.

*Sincerely,
Stephen*

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 SLEEPING BEAUTY

ACT I Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was born. Her parents named her Aurora and invited all the fairies of the land to her christening, except the evil fairy Carabosse. To everyone's horror, Carabosse arrives at the ceremony anyway. Angry that she was not invited, Carabosse places an evil curse on baby Aurora: when she is sixteen years old, she will prick her finger and die. Fortunately, the good and wise Lilac Fairy is also at the christening. Although she cannot remove the curse completely, she is powerful enough to change it! She declares that when the princess pricks her finger, she will not die, but instead fall asleep for one hundred years. The Lilac Fairy adds that a handsome Prince can awaken Aurora with a kiss.

The years passed peacefully and on Aurora's sixteenth birthday, the King and Queen throw Aurora a wonderful party. Princes travel from afar to join the celebration and each Prince at the party presents her with a rose in a dance called the Rose Adagio. Men and women of the court and villagers attend the celebration.

Delighted, Aurora shows her gratitude by dancing for the guests. But then, the powerful Carabosse stops time at the birthday party and her Minions entice Aurora to the palace tower. Mesmerized by Carabosse's spinning wheel, Aurora touches the spindle and becomes dizzy as the Lilac Fairy's spell begins to take effect, instead of Carabosse's curse. Soon Aurora is in a deep sleep.

ACT II *One hundred years later:* The handsome Prince Desire from a nearby kingdom is looking for game with his hunting party. While away from his party, he meets many friendly woodland creatures and curious characters. As Prince Desire takes an afternoon nap, the Lilac Fairy visits him in a dream. She shows him where his true love sleeps. As the Prince awakens, he is confronted by the evil Carabosse and her Minions. He must defeat them all to save Aurora. Once Aurora is kissed by the Prince, the spell is broken. The story concludes with a celebration of their royal wedding, after which they lived happily ever after.

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.



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.

GUEST PERFORMERS



BRAYDEN SCHMITT grew up in Holt, Michigan and started dancing at the age of 10. After graduating high school in 2021, he was invited into the Greater Lansing Ballet's professional group where he performed in many different ballets and community events. Brayden has attended many intensives around the world, namely GagaLab at Orsolina 28, GALLIM, Post:ballet, FLOCK in Chicago and more. Brayden also attends Lansing Community College where he will earn an Associate's Degree in the spring. He is currently dancing with Take Root, a modern dance company, under the direction of Ali Woerner. At the same time, Brayden continues to freelance around Michigan.



WILLIAM SCHUTTE is excited to be joining West Michigan Youth Ballet for *Sleeping Beauty*. 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.



West Michigan Youth Ballet thanks
Jay Batzner and WMYB alum **Daria Batzner**
for offering their time and talent as the King and Queen.

PARTICIPATING STUDIOS

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

Academy of Dance Arts
Ada Dance Academy
Avalon
Ballet Etc.
David Matthews Studio
Fine Arts School of Dance
Grand Rapids Ballet

Hearts in Motion
Imprint Dance Company
Kathy's Dance Co
Michigan Ballet Academy
Mosaic Dance Center
Relevé Dance Studio
Verity Ballet

CAST - SATURDAY 1:00

ACT I

Aurora	Josie Sulka
Prince	Darrell Haggard
King	Jay Batzner
Queen	Daria Batzner
Beauty Fairy	Ren Keast
Confidence Fairies	Emma Diaz-Lawton, Hadley Breit
Grace Fairy	Macy Satterthwaite
Song Fairy	Berkleigh Carol
Courage Fairy	Elaina Sanford
Wisdom Fairy	Ella Yenchar
Master of Ceremonies	William Schutte
Jesters	Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega
Nannies	Shay Duffy, Cate Afman
Messenger/Court Attendee	Nate Sanford
Dukes and Duchesses	Wolfgang Goluska, Marisa Miller, Xander Goluska, Mileah Ismail, Mars Maiden, Aubrey Doyle, Brayden Schmitt, Stella Gulick, Sophia Bergsma, Carli Mais
Courtiers	Connor Rapson, Carter Endres, Meagan Conn, Sydney Byrne, Iris Adamczak, Katherine Wisser, Deidra Uzarski, Mikena Ismail, Leah Selleck, Mikayla Ismail
Carabosse	Sara Primeau
Mazilla	Brooklyn Tilma
Nabote	Ariel Botsko-Wilson
Carabosse's Unseelie Court	Charlotte DeYoung, Emi Conn, Jahziah Camp, Elanor Schutter, Alexa Wilson, Olivia Wisser, Leila Thompson, Ava Stauffer
Ushers	Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Nate Sanford
Flower Girls	Charlotte Watson, Lexie White, Charley Sanial, Livia Burnson, Lauren Hendricks, Abigail Carlisle, Ella DeWildt, Molly Tate, Lynnlee Ashton
Beauty/Wisdom Sprites	Eleanor Masterson, Ella Rottman
Confidence Sprites	Zella Boone, Charlene DeBruler
Grace Sprites	Madeleine Stauffer, Rebekah Holland
Song Sprites	Piper Seekell, Lydia Wilson
Courage Sprites	Clara Schultz, Lucy Sanford
Rose Adagio	Darrell Haggard, Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt

CAST - SATURDAY 1:00

ACT II

Hunt Party.....	Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt, Connor Rapson, Carter Endres, Sydney Byrne, Meagan Conn, Shay Duffy, Leah Selleck, Mikena Ismail, Cate Afman
Young Girls	Scarlett Noriega, Sunny Lancaster
Skunks	Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao
Raccoon	Nate Sanford
Foxes.....	Charlotte Watson, Livia Burnson, Charley Sanial
Squirrels.....	Ella Rottman, Eleanor Masterson
Rabbits	Madeleine Stauffer, Rebekah Holland
Butterflies.....	Lucy Sanford, Clara Schultz
Frogs	Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Charlene DeBruler
Mother Cat.....	Iris Adamczak
Kittens	Mikayla Ismail, Katherine Wisser, Deidra Uzarski
Bluebird.....	Mars Maiden
Princess Florine	Sophia Bergsma
Little Red	Lexie White
Wolf.....	Connor Rapson
Dukes and Duchesses	Stella Gulick, Wolfgang Goluska, Ren Keast, Xander Goluska, Carli Mais, Brayden Schmitt
Courtiers.....	Carter Endres, Meagan Conn, Sydney Byrne, Mikena Ismail, Leah Selleck, Cate Afman, Shay Duffy
Gold Fairy	Hadley Breit
Silver Fairy.....	Aubrey Doyle
Ruby Fairy	Marisa Miller
Emerald Fairies.....	Macy Satterthwaite, Mileah Ismail
Sapphire Fairies.....	Berkleigh Carol, Elaina Sanford
Diamond Fairy	Emma Diaz-Lawton
Lilac Fairy.....	Ella Yenchar
Garland Dance.....	Charlotte Watson, Lynnlee Ashton, Charley Sanial, Livia Burnson, Lauren Hendricks, Abigail Carlisle, Ella DeWildt, Molly Tate
Ushers	Nate Sanford, Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao
Sprites.....	Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Clara Schultz, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Ella Rottman, Rebecca Holland, Madeleine Stauffer, Charlene DeBruler
Jesters	Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega

CAST - SATURDAY 4:30

ACT I

Aurora	Emma Diaz-Lawton
Prince	Darrell Haggard
King	Jay Batzner
Queen	Daria Batzner
Beauty Fairy	Ren Keast
Confidence Fairies	Josie Sulka, Ella Yenchar
Grace Fairy	Stella Gulick
Song Fairy	Mileah Ismail
Courage Fairy	Marisa Miller
Wisdom Fairy	Hadley Breit
Master of Ceremonies	William Schutte
Jesters	Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega
Nannies	Shay Duffy, Cate Afman
Messenger/Court Attendee	Nate Sanford
Dukes and Duchesses	Wolfgang Goluska, Elaina Sanford, Xander Goluska, Berkleigh Carol, Mars Maiden, Aubrey Doyle, Brayden Schmitt, Macy Satterthwaite, Sophia Bergsma, Carli Mais
Courtiers	Connor Rapson, Carter Endres, Meagan Conn, Sydney Byrne, Iris Adamczak, Katherine Wisser, Deidra Uzarski, Mikena Ismail, Leah Selleck, Mikayla Ismail
Carabosse	Sara Primeau
Mazilla	Brooklyn Tilma
Nabote	Ariel Botsko-Wilson
Carabosse's Unseelie Court	Charlotte DeYoung, Emi Conn, Jahziah Camp, Elanor Schutter, Alexa Wilson, Olivia Wisser, Leila Thompson, Ava Stauffer
Ushers	Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao, Nate Sanford
Flower Girls	Charlotte Watson, Lexie White, Charley Sanial, Livia Burnson, Lauren Hendricks, Abigail Carlisle, Ella DeWildt, Molly Tate, Lynnlee Ashton
Beauty/Wisdom Sprites	Eleanor Masterson, Ella Rottman
Confidence Sprites	Zella Boone, Charlene DeBruler
Grace Sprites	Madeleine Stauffer, Rebekah Holland
Song Sprites	Piper Seekell, Lydia Wilson
Courage Sprites	Clara Schultz, Lucy Sanford
Rose Adagio	Darrell Haggard, Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt

CAST - SATURDAY 4:30

ACT II

Hunt Party.....	Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt, Connor Rapson, Carter Endres, Iris Adamczak, Meagan Conn, Shay Duffy, Leah Selleck, Mikena Ismail, Cate Afman
Young Girls	Scarlett Noriega, Sunny Lancaster
Skunks	Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao
Raccoon	Nate Sanford
Foxes.....	Charlotte Watson, Livia Burnson, Charley Sanial
Squirrels.....	Ella Rottman, Eleanor Masterson
Rabbits	Madeleine Stauffer, Rebekah Holland
Butterflies.....	Lucy Sanford, Clara Schultz
Frogs.....	Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Charlene DeBruer
Mother Cat.....	Sydney Byrne
Kittens	Mikayla Ismail, Katherine Wisser, Deidra Uzarski
Bluebird.....	Mars Maiden
Princess Florine	Sophia Bergsma
Little Red	Lexie White
Wolf.....	Carter Endres
Dukes and Duchesses	Mileah Ismail, Wolfgang Goluska, Berkleigh Carol, Xander Goluska, Macy Satterthwaite, Brayden Schmitt
Courtiers.....	Connor Rapson, Meagan Conn, Iris Adamczak, Mikena Ismail, Leah Selleck, Cate Afman, Shay Duffy
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Silver Fairy.....	Aubrey Doyle
Ruby Fairy	Marisa Miller
Emerald Fairies.....	Stella Gulick, Ella Yenchar
Sapphire Fairies.....	Carli Mais, Elaina Sanford
Diamond Fairy	Josie Sulka
Lilac Fairy.....	Hadley Breit
Garland Dance.....	Charlotte Watson, Lynnlee Ashton, Charley Sanial, Livia Burnson, Lauren Hendricks, Abigail Carlisle, Ella DeWildt, Molly Tate
Ushers	Nate Sanford, Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao
Sprites.....	Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Clara Schultz, Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Ella Rottman, Rebecca Holland, Madeleine Stauffer, Charlene DeBruer
Jesters	Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega

CAST - SUNDAY 1:00

ACT I

Aurora	Sophia Bergsma
Prince	Darrell Haggard
King	Jay Batzner
Queen	Daria Batzner
Beauty Fairy	Aubrey Doyle
Confidence Fairies	Emma Diaz-Lawton, Josie Sulka
Grace Fairy	Macy Satterthwaite
Song Fairy	Sara Primeau
Courage Fairy	Marisa Miller
Wisdom Fairy	Hadley Breit
Master of Ceremonies	William Schutte
Jesters	Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega
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Rose Adagio	Darrell Haggard, Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt

CAST - SUNDAY 1:00

ACT II

Hunt Party..... Wolfgang Goluska, Xander Goluska, Brayden Schmitt,
Connor Rapson, Carter Endres, Iris Adamczak,
Meagan Conn, Shay Duffy, Leah Selleck,
Mikena Ismail, Cate Afman

Young GirlsScarlett Noriega, Sunny Lancaster

Skunks Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao

Raccoon Nate Sanford

Foxes..... Charlotte Watson, Livia Burnson, Charley Sanial

Squirrels..... Ella Rottman, Eleanor Masterson

RabbitsMadeleine Stauffer, Rebekah Holland

Butterflies..... Lucy Sanford, Clara Schultz

Frogs Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Charlene DeBruler

Mother Cat..... Carli Mais

KittensMikayla Ismail, Katherine Wisser, Deidra Uzarski

Bluebird..... Mars Maiden

Princess Florine Stella Gulick

Little Red Lexie White

Wolf..... Connor Rapson

Dukes and DuchessesAubrey Doyle, Wolfgang Goluska,
Elaina Sanford, Xander Goluska,
Marisa Miller, Brayden Schmitt

Courtiers..... Carter Endres, Meagan Conn, Iris Adamczak,
Mikena Ismail, Leah Selleck, Cate Afman, Shay Duffy

Gold FairyRen Keast

Silver Fairy..... Sydney Byrne

Ruby Fairy Emma Diaz-Lawton

Emerald Fairies..... Macy Satterthwaite, Mileah Ismail

Sapphire Fairies..... Berkleigh Carol, Sara Primeau

Diamond FairyJosie Sulka

Lilac FairyHadley Breit

Garland Dance.....Charlotte Watson, Lynnlee Ashton, Charley Sanial, Livia Burnson,
Lauren Hendricks, Abigail Carlisle, Ella DeWildt, Molly Tate

Ushers Nate Sanford, Ray Qiao, Rainer Qiao

Sprites..... Lydia Wilson, Zella Boone, Piper Seekell, Clara Schultz,
Lucy Sanford, Eleanor Masterson, Ella Rottman,
Rebecca Holland, Madeleine Stauffer, Charlene DeBruler

Jesters Sunny Lancaster, Scarlett Noriega

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!



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.



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Mom, Dave,
and Ruby***

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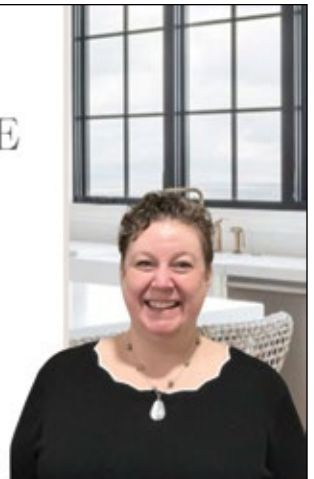
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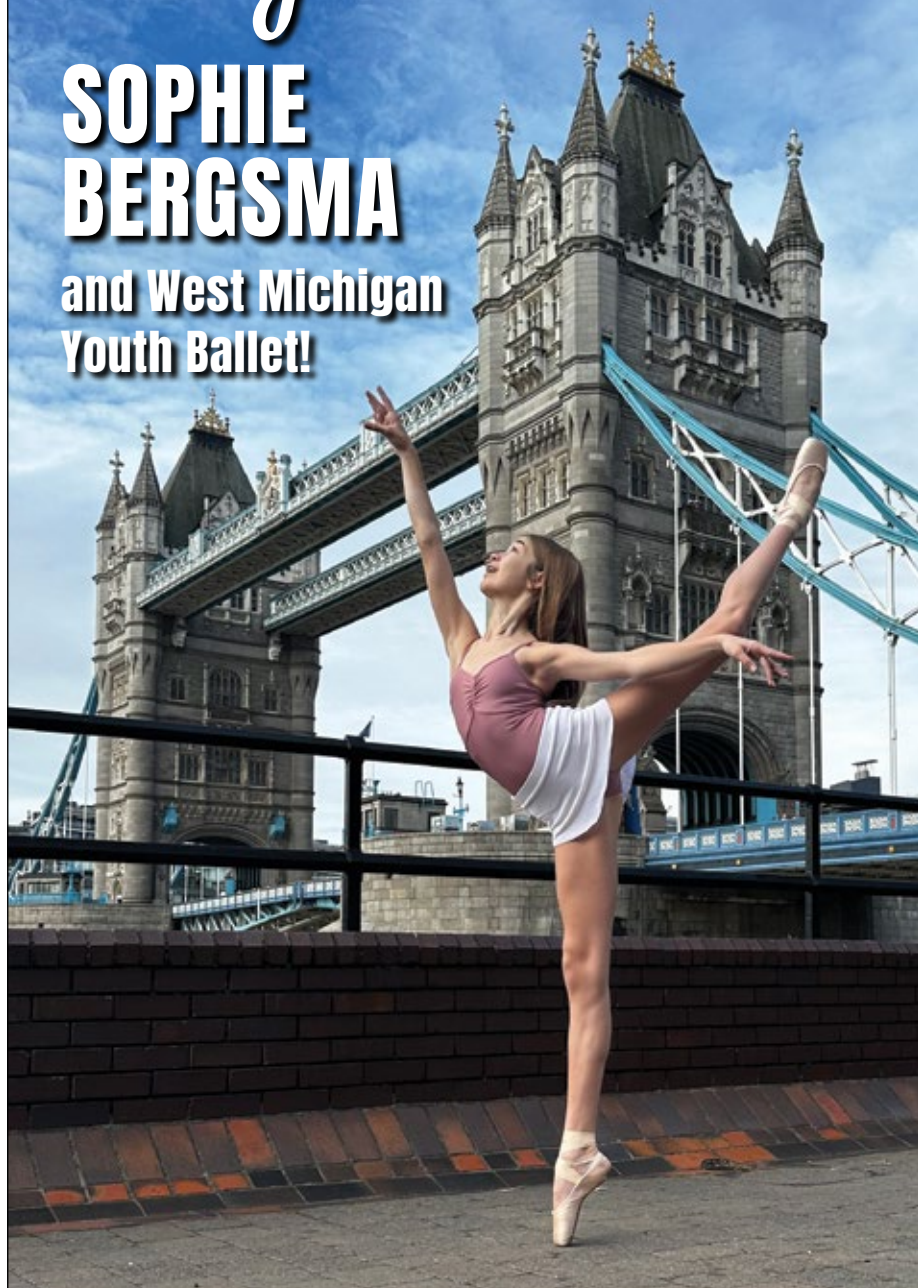
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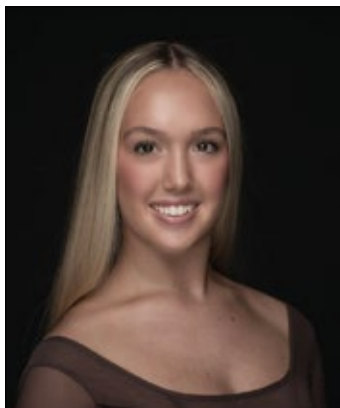
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CONGRATS TO OUR WMYB SENIORS!



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.

WMYB DANCERS



IRIS ADAMCZAK is an 8th grader at Byron Center West Middle School. Dancing since 2021, this is her first spring show with WMYB. She trains at the Academy of Dance Arts. Outside of dance, she enjoys shopping with her mom and spending time with friends. Iris thanks everyone involved.



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 13 years old and in 7th grade at Northern Hills. She has been dancing at Academy of Dance Arts since age 3 and is part of their competition team. This is her 5th performance with WMYB. She would like to thank her teachers, friends, and family for their love and support.



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.



ZELLA BOONE is in 5th grade at Northern Trails and has been dancing with Ada Dance Academy for 5 years. This is her 2nd spring performance with WMYB and she is grateful to be a part of it.



ARIEL BOTSKO-WILSON is thrilled to debut with WMYB. At 15, she's danced with Mosaic Dance Company for 7 years. She's a sophomore at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. Ariel's always dancing or doing homework. Ariel thanks her parents, dance teachers, friends, and her cat for their unwavering support.



HADLEY BREIT is 17 years old and a junior at Byron Center High School. She has danced for 9 years at Ada Dance Academy and 6 years with WMYB. She also plays lacrosse and enjoys hanging out with friends. Hadley is so excited for this spring's performance and thanks her teachers, family, friends, and God for making everything possible.

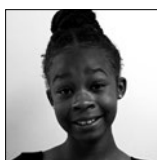
WMYB DANCERS



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.



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 3rd 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. 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.

WMYB DANCERS



CHARLENE DeBRULER is 10 years old and a 4th grader at Collins Elementary. She has been dancing since she was 4, and loves every moment of it. Outside of dance, Charlene enjoys reading, drawing, and baking cakes. She would like to thank her parents, brothers, friends, and teachers for their ongoing support.



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 5th 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.



CHARLOTTE DeYOUNG is 12 years old. Dancing for 8 years, this is her 5th WMYB spring show. At Avalon School of the Arts, She has performed in *The Nutcracker* and summer ballet every year and attended programs with GR Ballet and the Cecchetti Council of America. She is grateful to Miss Marie, Mr. Stephen, and Miss Laura for teaching and support!



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 4th season with WMYB. She previously performed in *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *The 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 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. He expresses himself through music and fashion and approaches every opportunity with originality. Carter values his friendships and the joy of shared experiences.

WMYB DANCERS



STELLA GULICK is a 7th grader at Northern Hills Middle. She dances at Ada Dance and competes with the YAGP and UBC teams. This is her 9th WMYB show. Her favorite part of performing is the fun costumes and dancing with her best friends. She thanks her family and her dedicated coaches for always supporting her dance career.



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!



REBEKAH HOLLAND has been dancing since she was 4 years old. She is a 5th grader at Calvary Christian in Fruitport. When she's not dancing, she likes to give her friends makeovers, bake cookies, swim, or play in the snow. This is Bekah's second show with WMYB. She thanks all her friends and family 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.



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.



REN KEAST is a sophomore at Forest Hills Central and on the Varsity Dance Team. Dancing since age 4, she has participated in numerous competitions, achieving a Top 24 placement at YAGP 2023. In her 2nd WMYB show, she is thrilled by the chance to showcase her talent. Ren thanks family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support.

WMYB DANCERS



ALLISUN LANCASTER is in 6th grade and has danced with Ada Dance Academy since she was 2½ years old. 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.



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 a 3rd grader at Cannonsburg Elementary. She has been dancing since age 2 at Hearts in Motion dance studio. This will be her second performance with WMYB. When she isn't dancing, Eleanor enjoys cross country skiing, drawing, science, and spending time with friends and family.



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.



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.

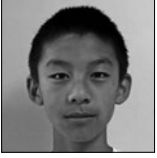


SARA PRIMEAU is a senior at Traverse City St. Francis. Dancing since age 2, this is her 4th year with WMYB. Sara thanks Ms. Laura, Mr. Stephen, and Ms. Heather for their commitment to this wonderful company, and all the parents who worked tirelessly to put on a great production. Love to her family for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

WMYB DANCERS



RAINER QIAO, 8th grade, has been dancing for 3 years and skating for 8. This marks his 3rd 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 a 4th grader at Collins Elementary. Dancing since age 2, she is excited for her 5th WMYB performance. Ella enjoys spending time with friends and family, cheerleading, skiing, swimming, and playing with her dog Teddy. Thank you to WMYB, Ada Dance Academy, HMD, friends, and family for continued love and support.



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 and 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.

WMYB DANCERS



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 2nd 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.



CLARA SCHULTZ is in 4th grade at Cherry Creek Elementary. Ballet is her passion, and this is her 2nd year and 4th 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.



ELANOR SCHUTTER is 12 years old and in 7th grade at Crossroads Middle School. She has been dancing since age 10 at Hearts in Motion. This is her 1st show with WMYB. She also enjoys running, baking, and cats. Elanor thanks her family, friends, and teachers for their support.



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.



LEAH SELLECK is in 7th grade at FHN Middle, and attends Ada Dance Academy. This is her 9th year dancing and 9th WMYB performance. 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.



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.

WMYB DANCERS



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.



JOSIE SULKA 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. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform with WMYB. She enjoys reading, playing with her cats, and hanging out with her dance friends. She would like to thank her family, teachers, and Jesus for their love and support.



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 2nd show with WMYB. Leila is an adventurous world traveler, enjoys baking, doing gel nails, and spending time with friends and family.



BROOKLYN TILMA is a 9th grade homeschooler. She is a versatile dancer with a main love of ballet. She loves researching the ballet world, its greatest dancers, and anything about the performing arts. She dances at two studios, one majorly catering to her commercial dance skills, and the other her ballet.



DEIDRA UZARSKI is in 8th grade at Lowell Middle. She started dancing in kindergarten with Ada Dance Academy and is now in her 9th year. This is her 2nd show with WMYB. She always inspires others to work hard and do their best. Deidra is active in her Youth Group and Girl Scouts. She thanks her family, friends, instructors, and God for support.



CHARLOTTE WATSON is in 6th grade at Central Woodlands. She's been dancing since 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.

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 8th WMYB show. She thanks God for her talent, her wonderful dance teachers for diligent instruction, and family for supporting her dreams of professional ballet.



ALEXA WILSON is 12 years old and a sixth grader at John Ball Zoo School. She recently began dancing at Ada Dance Academy and this is her third show with WMYB. In her spare time, Alexa enjoys camping, playing soccer, and snuggling with her guinea pigs. She would like to thank her teachers and WMYB for this opportunity.



LYDIA WILSON, 10, has been dancing since age 3 and trains with Ada Dance Academy. She previously was in *The Nutcracker* and *The Wizard of Oz* with WMYB. Lydia loves spending time with family and friends, reading, and exploring all types of art. She is thrilled to be part of *The Sleeping Beauty* and to share her love of dance with the audience!



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 3rd 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.



ELLA YENCHARR 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.



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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.



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

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.



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

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THE Nutcracker

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