

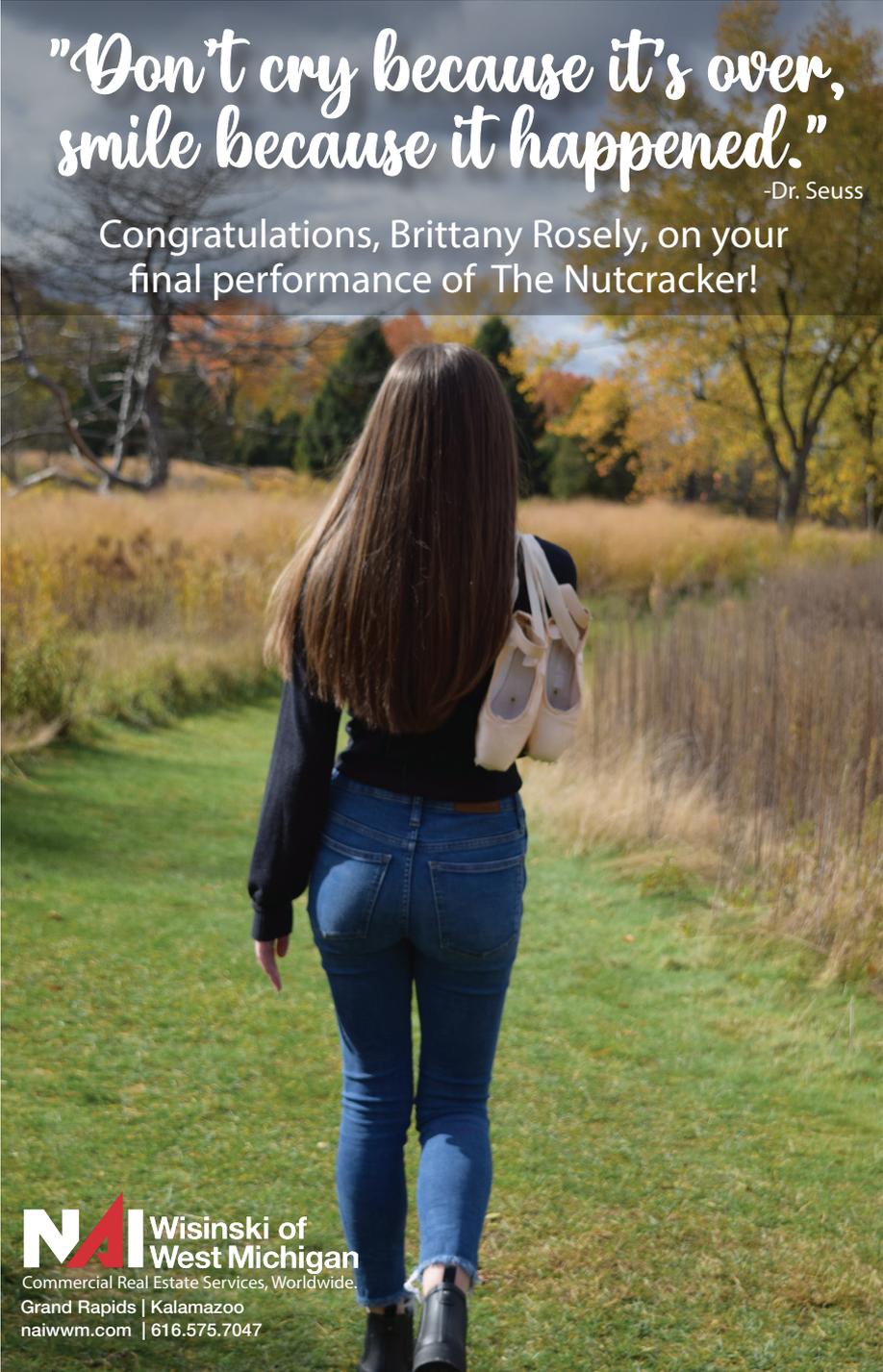
WEST MICHIGAN YOUTH BALLET *presents*

the Nutcracker



December 4 • 7:00PM
December 5-6 • 1:00PM / 4:30PM
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center





*"Don't cry because it's over,
smile because it happened."*

-Dr. Seuss

Congratulations, Brittany Rosely, on your
final performance of The Nutcracker!

NAI Wisinski of
West Michigan

Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.

Grand Rapids | Kalamazoo

naiwmm.com | 616.575.7047

Welcome!

Welcome to West Michigan Youth Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker!*
We are thrilled that you are here to celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of
our young dancers from West Michigan.

WMYB has been successful through the love, passion, hard work,
and vision of the artistic staff, professional choreographers, dancers,
and their families. We would like to thank them and also thank you
for your support and presence here today.

Please enjoy our performance!

ADVISORY BOARD

Maria DeVos

Melissa Meldrum-Aaberg, M.D.

Stephen Sanford, *Artistic Director*

Samantha Shelton, M.F.A., *Choreographer*

Marlene Kenneway, *Board Chairperson/Co-Founder*

BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Arganbright

Sara Armbruster

Chelsea Austin

Carolyn Evans

Carrie Everhart

Amy Feather

Cesar Gonzales

Liz Henry

Mary Jo Kuhlman

Brigitte Nelson, *Co-Founder*

Sally Shull

Judy Sulka

Pat Waring

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mary Anne Rosely, *President*

Patti Diaz-Lawton, *Vice President*

Caren Kerprich, *Treasurer*

Missie Endres, *Secretary*

WMYB is very appreciative of the businesses that support us
through their advertisements. Please patronize those businesses in this
program who have so generously given back to their local youth.

Thank you!

OUR Mission

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

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

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

Help Us Continue To Make A Difference!

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

TO DONATE



Go to wmyb.org.
Click on the About tab.
Click Support Us.

OR

Scan this QR code
with your smartphone.



Production Partner.....	\$10,000 +
Performance Sponsor.....	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Set Sponsor	\$3,000 - \$4,999
Costume Sponsor	\$1,500 - \$2,999
Cast Sponsor	\$500 - \$1,499
Friends of the Ballet	\$10 - \$499

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



ART WORKS.

**National
Endowment
for the Arts**

arts.gov

THE STORY OF CLARA'S Nutcracker

Music by Peter Olyich Tchaikovsky

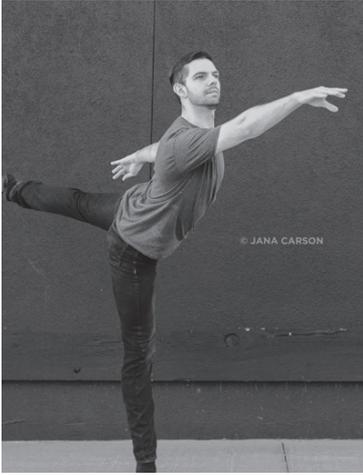
It is Christmas Eve in a quaint German town, in the late 1800's. A sense of anticipation is in the air as the wealthy Stahlbaum family readies their home for the annual Christmas party. But no one is more excited than Herr and Frau Stahlbaum's young daughter, Clara, and her brother Fritz. As the guests arrive, and the Christmas festivities begin, children and adults dance to their heart's content and exchange Christmas presents. In the midst of all this merry-making, Clara's godfather, Dr. Drosselmeyer, appears at the party accompanied by his nephew. A renowned toymaker, he brings his latest inventions with him – life-sized mechanical dolls! Dr. Drosselmeyer also presents a special present to Clara, a beautiful wooden Nutcracker! Clara cherishes the Nutcracker and dances with him, imagining him to be a handsome prince!

All too soon the evening is over and the guests return home. Exhausted, the family goes to bed. At precisely midnight, strange things begin to happen. First, mice appear and scurry about the living room. Clara awakens and looks for her Nutcracker and the mice terrorize her. Just then Dr. Drosselmeyer reappears, scoops up Clara, and dances with her around the living room. Clara is amazed as the Christmas tree grows right before her eyes. As if by magic, Clara's Nutcracker becomes alive and bids her to come to him. But just as Clara is ready to embrace her beloved Nutcracker, the evil Mouse King appears, to do battle with him. Soldiers come to his aid to fight the Mouse King. And just as it appears that all is lost, Clara takes off her slipper and throws it at the Mouse King, who falls to the ground, defeated. And there, in front of Clara, stands her Nutcracker, the most handsome prince she has ever seen! Grateful, he and Dr. Drosselmeyer lead her through an enchanted forest, where the Snow Queen and King welcome her amidst the whirling snowflakes.

As Act II opens, Clara and Dr. Drosselmeyer are transported to the Land of Sweets. There they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier. The Sugar Plum Fairy learns of Clara's heroic act in defeating the Mouse King, and she invites friends from the different lands of her Kingdom to perform in Clara's honor. Dancers come from Spain, Arabia, Russia, and even China to entertain Clara. Reed flutes perform a beautiful dance for them and Mother Ginger appears, with a skirt full of Bon-Bons. The flowers dance in Clara's honor with the lovely Dew Drop Fairy. Finally, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier present a beautiful pas-de-deux, before all friends come together one more time for the Grand Finale. But, alas, all good dreams do come to an end, and Clara and her Nutcracker Prince are ushered back into reality by the angels in a fancy sleigh.

GUEST Dancers

DAVID NAQUIN



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*.

WIN MARCINAK



Win Marcinak was born in Grand Haven, Michigan. He moved to San Francisco in the 70's and danced with the Pacific Ballet. Then went to New York City on full scholarship at The American Ballet Theatre School and Joffrey Ballet School. He went on to dance professionally with The Cleveland Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and with the The San Francisco Opera Ballet. He was a featured soloist in *The Nutcracker*, Alvin Ailey's *The River* and many others. Win has also spent the past 30 years as a personal trainer with specialties in strengthening ballet dancers and was the trainer for the San Francisco Ballet. Win has also been a recording artist for 20 years and

has written a children's musical, *The Ballachian Prince*. His philosophy of teaching is: Basic ballet technique and strength, transforming that into a smooth/connected and lifted way of moving. This applies to all levels.

WOLFGANG GOLUSKA



Wolfgang Goluska is an 19-year-old sophomore at Grand Valley State University where he majors in dance. He has trained in many forms of dance over the 11 years he has been dancing, but has primarily focused on ballet. He is from Okemos and has trained and performed with several studios and companies around the Lansing area, with the most recent being Children's Ballet Theatre. With these studios, he has had the pleasure of performing roles such as the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, Don Quixote in *Don Quixote* and the Knave of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*. Over the summers he has had the pleasure of training with North East Academy of Dance,

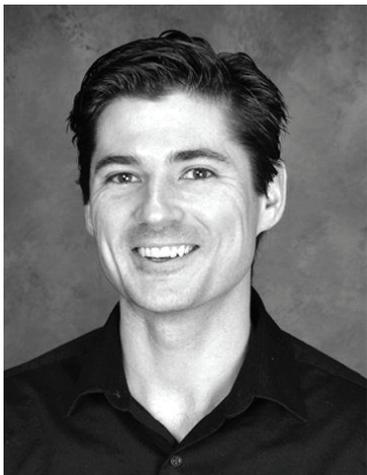
Cincinnati Ballet, and Grand Rapids Ballet in their respective Summer intensives. He hopes to join a professional ballet company some day, and is currently working hard at GVSU as well as guest dancing with some local companies to further his exposure and training.

***A special Thank You to our wonderful guest
Al Samora for playing Mother Ginger!***

WMYB Biographies

Thank you to the following choreographers and staggers for their creativity and expertise.

STEPHEN SANFORD - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Stephen started his training at Southhold Dance Theater in South Bend, Indiana. He then went on to North Carolina School of the Arts where he trained under Melissa Hayden, Duncan Noble, and Warren Conover. He later went to Ballet Chicago Studio Company and was mentored by Dan Duell and Patricia Blair. Stephen has attended numerous summer courses including School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Hartford Ballet. Stephen has had a strong performing career with the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. He joined in 2001 and has been the lead man in many productions. As principal dancer, he has had the opportunity to work with famous

choreographers from all over the world such as Mario Radacovsky, Kirk Peterson, and Olivier Wevers to name a few. Stephen has performed as a guest artist for New York Theater Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Geiger Ballet, Southhold Dance Theater, and Ohio Theatre Ballet. He has been teaching ballet since 2000. He is currently a professor at Grand Valley State University and also teaches at Grand Rapids Ballet School and Ada Dance Academy. Stephen is a family man with five children, Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nathan, and Lucy with his wife, Jennifer.

LAURA SCHWENK-BERMAN - CHOREOGRAPHER



Laura Schwenk-Berman is an Artistic Director of RPM Productions in Chicago. She has been performing, teaching, choreographing, and staging works for over 42 years. She began her career dancing principal roles for the Garden State Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet and for seven years with the Pacific Northwest Ballet where she performed as a soloist with Gelsey Kirkland and Mikhail Baryshnikov. She has toured as a guest artist throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Ms. Berman served as the Ballet Mistress, Interim Artistic Director and Associate Artistic Director of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company

from 1992-2010. She conducted two capital campaigns for the company, one to renovate the old North Star Bus Terminal into four beautiful studios, the other to build the Peter Martin Wege Theatre and costume shop. At that time, she was also the Director of the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, establishing the school's curriculum, syllabus, faculty, and performances, while placing students in ballet companies around the world. Currently, in addition to her work with RPM, Ms. Berman choreographs original works, stages full-length ballets, and is a guest master instructor and coach. She has a Masters degree in Theatre from Northwestern University where she graduated with honors.

JODIE JAGLOWSKI - CHOREOGRAPHER



A Grand Rapids native, Joanne spent the majority of her early ballet education with former Joffrey artists Charthel Arthur and Robert Estner. Guest teachers and artists helped her fuel her determination, and various summer scholarship opportunities, including San Francisco Ballet School and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, helped launch her professional career with Cleveland San Jose Ballet. During these years, she performed at Chautacqua and on the Drew Carey Show. Ms. Jaglowski originated solos in *The Dying Swan* and *Marilyn*, both choreographed by Artistic Director Dennis Nahat. She was blessed to work with ballet greats such

as John Clifford, Donald MacKayle, Fleming Flindt, and Rudy VanDanzig. After leaving Ballet San Jose, Joanne joined Ballet Tucson for three seasons as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. While there, she and other dancers were coached by former ABT principals Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner. During this time, she began studying Pilates training and yoga, and has since earned her 200-hour YTT certificate. Since her return to Michigan, she has taught locally for competitive and non-competitive students and studios. She has acted as Ballet Mistress and choreographer for both the West Michigan Youth Ballet and Michigan Ballet Academy. In the summer of 2016, Ms. Jaglowski completed Pre-primary through Level 5 of the American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum. In 2017, she completed her certification with Levels 6, 7, and Partnering. This past summer she received her Progressing Ballet Technique certification as well. She has guest taught at GVSU, Grand Rapids Ballet, Ballet Kalamazoo, Ballet Tucson, and Ballet San Jose. She enjoys working with students of all ages and is always inspired by not only talent, but also intelligence and hard work.

LISA PEASLEY - CHOREOGRAPHER



Lisa started dancing at the age of 8. She studied ballet, tap, jazz, and lyrical dance in the Grand Rapids area until she was 15. She then moved to Arizona to study ballet at the Tucson School of Ballet. From there she moved to Phoenix and studied at the Phoenix School of Ballet. She has also lived in Indianapolis where she studied tap, jazz, and ballet at the Jordan College of Fine Arts. In all, Lisa has over 30 years of teaching experience during her time in Grand Rapids, Arizona, and Indiana.

KATIE AABERG - CHOREOGRAPHER



Katie Aaberg, a Michigan native and graduate from West Michigan Youth Ballet, currently dances with Grand Rapids Ballet. She started her training at age three with Ada Dance Academy and soon after started performing with West Michigan Youth Ballet. She attended summer intensives at the Joffrey Academy of Dance in Chicago, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Apart from this, in 2014 she performed professionally with RPM Productions in the *American Portrait*, and in 2016 placed third for Classical Ballet Solos in the senior age division at Youth American Grand Prix. In 2020,

Katie graduated from Butler University with a Bachelor of Science. During her time at Butler she performed notable roles such as Dew Drop and Mirlitons demi-soloist in *The Nutcracker*, and Little Red Riding Hood in *Sleeping Beauty*. Katie is thrilled to be back in her hometown working with the West Michigan Youth Ballet dancers, and to begin her first season as a professional dancer with Grand Rapids Ballet.

HEATHER CASSADY - COSTUME DESIGNER, COSTUMER, AND SEAMSTRESS



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

Thank you to my incredibly talented team that continues to work endless hours to make spectacular costumes. Carrie Everhart and Kristin Throop you amaze me on a daily basis. You go above and beyond to make everything we build beautiful and of the highest quality. There truly is love in every stitch! Thank you to former WMYB Costumers Margie Styf and Kathy Gill who continue to build fabulous costumes for us and with us. I am incredibly grateful for all of you and proud to be a part of this team.

Keeping you in stitches,

Heather Cassady

Be Bright. Be Strong. Be Kind.



Building for Life.

Michigan Contractor of the Year

2010 | 2013/2014 | 2015/2016 | 2017/2018 | 2019/2020

DANVOSCONSTRUCTION.COM | 616.676.9169

afendoulis Cleaners & Tuxedos



Now Offering
Free Pick-up and Delivery

sign up at afendouliscleaners.com

Forest
Hills

FOODS



*Masterpiece Flower Company
Proudly Supports the
West Michigan Youth Ballet.*



IMPRINTDANCECOMPANY

IMPRINTDANCECO.COM

3782 29TH ST KENTWOOD MI 49512 - 6165759969

Good Luck!

DANCERS



*"Leaving a lasting
impression"*

SIGHT

EYECARE + OPTICAL BOUTIQUE

**WE ARE PROUD OF YOU
BRECKTI KORICAN AND THE ENTIRE
WEST MICHIGAN YOUTH BALLET**

DR. RENEE KORICAN & MARIANNE MOAYER, OD

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE EAST HILLS BUSINESS DISTRICT

WWW.SIGHTEYECAREGR.COM 616-323-3949

COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE MUSCULOSKELETAL CARE



**GRAND RAPIDS
ORTHOPEDICS**
PETER S. VASIU, D.O., P.C.

- Outpatient Joint Replacement
- Minimally Invasive Arthroscopic Surgery
- Minimally Invasive ACL Reconstruction
- Hand/Carpal Tunnel Surgery
- Anterior Lateral Ligament Reconstruction
- Sports Medicine
- Laser Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Fracture Care
- Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair
- Arthroscopic Shoulder Surgery
- Foot & Ankle Surgery
- Bone Density Testing

Main Office: 616-281-7000
5070 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Monday - Friday 8AM to 5PM
www.GrandRapidsOrthopedics.com

O
A
M

ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATES

OF MICHIGAN



KOETSIER'S

From Our Home, To Your Garden.

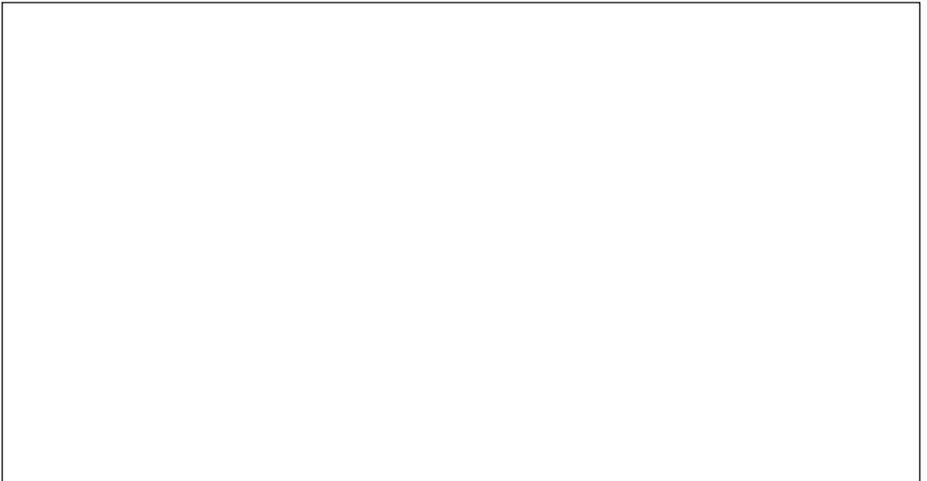
*We Love you,
Kami!*

A photograph of a ballerina in a dark, moody setting. She is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning back with one leg extended upwards and arms outstretched. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her form against a dark background.

Decanini
PHOTOGRAPHY

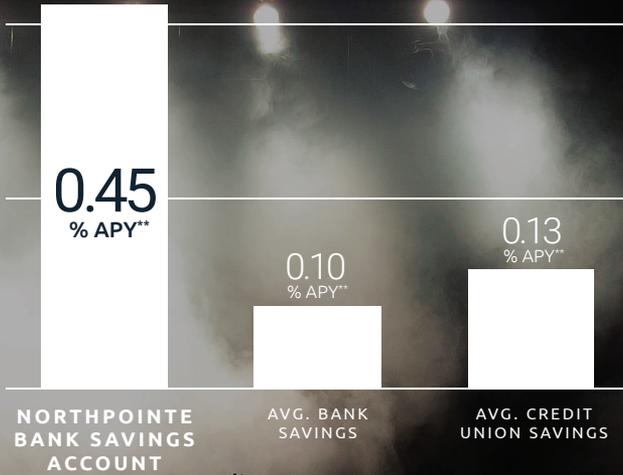
Performing Arts · Headshots
Seniors · Corporate
Sweet Sixteen · Quinceañera
Event Coverage
Commercial · Architectural

www.hdecaniniphotography.com
574-261-5539
humdec@hdecaniniphotography.com
facebook.com/hdecaniniphotography





Northpointe Bank



For the last three years, Northpointe Bank is consistently **higher than the national average savings rate*** on balances \$5,000 - \$2,000,000.

Available on personal, business and non-profit accounts.

Open your account today at northpointe.com/earnmore

*For the last three years, Northpointe Bank is consistently higher than the national average savings rate on balances \$5,000 and above, based on quarterly rate surveys extracted by NCUA from S&P Global Market Intelligence databases. **National average bank and credit union rates based on data extracted from NCUA.gov and Bankrate.com on 08/10/20.



WMYB *Seniors*

LEXI ERBENTRAUT



Lexi Erbentraut is 17 and will be graduating from Forest Hills Central High School. She has been with the West Michigan Youth Ballet for about 10 years now, and has been dancing for 14 years. Over the years, she has attended multiple summer ballet intensives, School of American Ballet (NYC), Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet (PA), and Ballet West (UT). In the future, she is planning to attend college and study biochemistry. All of this could not have happened without her family, friends, and teachers. She would like to personally thank her Dad (Brant), Mom (Kari), and sister (Sophie), for all the support over the years.

HARLEE SCHOLTEN



I've been a part of West Michigan Youth Ballet for ten years now and it's hard to believe this is my last season. I'm so grateful for all of the directors and instructors that I've had the pleasure to learn from over the years, as well as all the friends and fellow dancers who have become family. I want to extend a special thank you to Stephen Sanford, Laura Berman, and Tassia Johnson for pushing me to be the dancer I am today. I'd also like to thank Heather Cassidy and all the costuming volunteers for spending so much time creating the beautiful costumes seen on stage. A big thank you also goes out to my parents, who not only support me and my dancing, but also have both volunteered to join me on stage as party

parents, grandpa, and "the king" in many productions. Lastly, my little brother, for coming to my shows and being willing to hang out backstage. I will never forget my experiences with WMYB, and I'm so grateful for the opportunities, friendships, and joy that has come with them.

WMYB *Seniors*

BRITTANY ROSELY



It is hard to believe this is my 12th and final year with WMYB. Growing up with WMYB has been a blessing that will always be a huge part of my life. I have made many life-long friends and shared many incredible experiences that have helped shape me into the person that I am today. I couldn't be more grateful! I would like to thank Stephen Sanford and Laura Berman for pushing me and encouraging me throughout the years. It is their support that has led me to achieve all that I have in dance. Thank you to Heather Cassady for always making the dancers look amazing on stage! I would also like to thank Jen Norder for introducing the love of dance to me. Lastly, I

would like to thank my family, especially my mom, for always being there for me and encouraging me to be the best that I can be. Although my time at WMYB will be coming to an end, I will cherish my time and memories here forever.

NESSA GALVIN



For the past four years, I have had the privilege of being apart of the West Michigan Youth Ballet and I am so excited to be able to perform with everyone one last time. I am beyond grateful for the directors and teachers I've been blessed to learn from, and I would like to thank Stephen Sanford, Laura Berman, and Tassia Johnson for the countless hours of rehearsal and dedication that have helped me become the dancer I am. It has been a true gift to wear the beautiful costumes designed and created by Heather Cassady, as well as all the hard working volunteers. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to my parents and siblings who have been with me

every step of the way, guiding me and supporting me through everything. I will forever cherish the memories created at WMYB, it's been a dream!

WMYB *Seniors*

ABBIE BLOK



It is hard to believe that this is my final Nutcracker with the West Michigan Youth Ballet. I am so grateful to have been part of it for these many years. Through dance, I have learned the importance of responsibility, hard work, and dedication. Thank you to all of my dance teachers and family members that have always encouraged me to do my best and I would not be where I am today without them. The WMYB will always hold a special place in my heart and I will forever cherish the memories I have made here.

CLASS OF 2020



WMYB Dancers



CATE AFMAN is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Central Woodlands. She has been dancing for eight years. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and is thrilled to be performing in her third West Michigan Youth Ballet performance. Cate is also a huge animal lover!



AUDREY ALEXANDER is a fourth grade homeschool student. She has been dancing for five years, including three years at Ada Dance Academy. She would like to thank Ms. Margie, Ms. Hannah and Ms. Lisa for teaching her and making dance so fun.



ELLERY ARMBRUSTER is in 9th grade at Grand Rapids Christian High School. She has been dancing since she was two years old and has been doing competition dance for many years as well. Ellery is looking forward to another great WMYB performance and thanks all her teachers for helping her grow as a dancer.



KATELYN ARTZ I am in 7th grade at East Grand Rapids middle school and I have been dancing for six years. I train at Haus of Glass and Ada Dance Academy. I began my training with Miss Melanie Brossiet at Balletmore Dance Studio. Miss Melanie really started my love for dance and I am so happy to have trained with her. This is my first year performing with WMYB and I am so excited to be dancing with this company of amazing young dancers.



ASHLEY BARKEL is excited to perform with the West Michigan Youth Ballet. She is a junior at Forest Hills Northern. Ashley has attended summer dance programs through the School of American Ballet and Boston Ballet. Ashley would like to thank her family, friends, and dance instructors for their love and support.



LAUREL BARROWS Laurel is 12 years old and in seventh grade at Jenison Junior High. This is her ninth year of dance and third year performing with WMYB. When not dancing, Laurel is usually reading or playing the piano or clarinet. She also enjoys spending time with her little sister, Linnea; their dog, Coalbie, and cats Olaf and Elsa. She is grateful for all of the support from her friends and family.

DARIA BATZNER Hi! My name is Daria Batzner and this is my second year dancing with WMYB! I've been dancing for 10 years and I currently dance with the Mount Pleasant School of Dance. I'm super excited to perform in this year's *Nutcracker!* Enjoy the show!



MOLLY JANE BATZNER is currently a third grader at Renaissance Public School Academy in Mt. Pleasant. She has been dancing for five years and currently takes ballet and jazz classes at the Mt. Pleasant School of Dance. When she isn't dancing, she is breaking boards and dominating sparring matches at Mt. Pleasant Martial Arts.



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



ABBIE BLOK is a senior at NorthPointe Christian High School. She has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy since she was four years old and has participated in many WMYB performances. Outside of dance, Abbie enjoys spending time with friends and family. She would like to thank her family and teachers for their continuous love and support throughout the years.

HADLEY BREIT is a seventh grader at Byron Center West Middle School. She has been dancing at HIS Dance Academy and Ada Dance Academy for five years, with one year en pointe. Hadley also enjoys playing lacrosse and hanging out with her friends when she isn't dancing. She thanks her family, God, and dance teachers for making this all possible.

WHITNEY BREIT is a student at Brown Elementary School in Byron Center. She dances at HIS Dance Academy. Whitney enjoys outdoor adventures and playing with her friends.



ANTHONY BUNKER is a 7th grade student at Northern Hills Middle School. He has been dancing for almost five years. He currently takes Ballet and Hip Hop at David Matthew Studios. This is his third year performing in *The Nutcracker* with West Michigan Youth Ballet. In his free time, Anthony enjoys listening to music, reading, and going on family trips. He would like to thank his dance teachers and family for their support.



LIVIA BURNSON My name is Livia and I am 9 years old. I am in 3rd grade at Thornapple Elementary. This is my 6th year of dance at Ada Dance, but this is my first year with the West Michigan Youth Ballet. When I am not dancing, I am playing basketball, soccer, and gymnastics. I also love watching my older sister Zia play soccer. Thank you to my family and teachers for helping me along the way.



SYDNEY BYRNE is in the 5th grade Spanish Immersion program at Northern Trails. She has been dancing for 4½ years. Sydney would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her this year.



EMILYN CONN I am 9 years old and a 4th grader at Knapp Forest Elementary. This is my 8th year of dance, but my first season with West Michigan Youth Ballet. This is my 4th season on the competition team at Imprint Dance Company. In my free time I like to read, paint, and play outside. I want to thank my dance instructors, friends, and family for supporting me!

MEAGAN CONN I am 12 years old and a 7th grader at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. This is my 11th year of dance and my third year dancing with WMYB. This is also my 7th year competing for Imprint Dance Company. In my free time I love to read, do crafts, play outside, and ride my bike. I want to thank my dance instructors, friends, and family for their constant love and support.



CHARLOTTE DEIKE I am in 8th grade at Hillside Middle School. This is my third year with WMYB. I dance with Ballet Arts and Tye Chua Dance in Kalamazoo. I want to thank everyone who has helped me so far. I am thankful for the opportunity to perform with WMYB and I look forward to the season.



JOSEPHINE DEIKE I am in 6th grade at Hillside Middle School. This is my third year with WMYB. I dance with Tye Chua dance and Ballet Arts in Kalamazoo. I like to read and I love art. I have three cats, two dogs, and a hamster. I want to thank my family and my teachers for supporting me.



LINNEA DEVER is in 8th grade and goes to EGR middle school. She has now been dancing for 10 years and currently takes classes at Ada Dance Academy. In her free time, she loves to read, get Starbucks, hang out with friends and family, travel, and cuddle with her three cats. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her all the way.



EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON is a 6th grader at Northern Trails. She has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy for eight years and with WMYB for the past four. She dances six days a week and still wants more. When she's not dancing, she likes to ride her bike, travel, and hang out with friends. She would like to thank her dance teachers for all of their guidance and

her family for their love and support.



AUBREY DOYLE is 8½ years old and in third grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She has taken dance since she was three years old, and she has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy for the last four years.

When she is not dancing, Aubrey enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Aubrey was supposed to dance in *Coppelia* with WMYB last spring, so she is excited to be in first performance of *The Nutcracker*.



BROOKLYN ELSEA I attend Saint Louis Public Schools and dance at Academy of Performing Arts in Alma. I have been dancing for seven years and enjoy all different kinds of dance. This is my second year with WMYB and I would like to thank them for the opportunity to expand my dance resume. #forkathy APA Director and Mentor Kathy Francis.

LEXI ERBENTRAUT is a senior at Forest Hills Central. She has been dancing for 14 years and has been with the West Michigan Youth Ballet for 10 years. Over the last couple years she has been to various ballet schools and has been invited to year-round programs in Salt Lake City, Utah. She would like to thank her family, friends, and all her amazing

teachers for their support and love.



SOPHIA ERBENTRAUT is a 9th grader at Forest Hill Central. She has been dancing for 11 years, and has been with the WMYB for 7 years.



ELLIE EVERHART Ellie is very excited to be part of the WMYB again this year. Ellie lives in Ada and is a junior at Eastern High School. Ellie dances at Ada Dance Academy and David Matthew Studios. She has been taking dance instruction since she was four. She has attended Ballet Chicago and Ballet West summer intensive programs. Ellie would

like to thank her instructors, family, and friends for all of their support.



CHLOE FEATHER I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Byron Center High. This will be my 11th year with WMYB, and even though the season looks different, I am still very excited. Outside of dance, I am very involved in my studies, performing in BCHS productions, and cheering. I have loved all my years with WMYB and have made so many friends.



MADELYNE FRANG I am 11 years old in 5th grade at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School in Muskegon. I started dancing when I was three years old and compete with Lakeshore Dance Academy. This is my 2nd year dancing in *The Nutcracker*. I love to do art, make-up, and hang out with my friends.



EVI FRAS I am 9 years old! This is my 7th year in ballet, and my 2nd year performing in *The Nutcracker!* I would like to thank my parents and brother and sister for always supporting and encouraging me!



LAURA FRILLMANN is a sophomore at East Grand Rapids High School. She has been dancing since she was four, and is thrilled to be performing in her third show with West Michigan Youth Ballet. In addition to dancing, Laura enjoys spending time with her friends and family. She would like to thank her instructors at Ada Dance Academy and her family for their endless support!

NESSA GALVIN Nessa has been dancing for 14 years. She is a senior at Rockford High School and dances with HIS Dance Academy. She would like to thank her family and dance teachers for their constant love and support. Besides dance, Nessa enjoys photography and being with her friends and family.



SOPHIE GIETZEN is 9 years old and goes to Thornapple Elementary. She has been dancing since she was three years old and excited to be part of the WMYB for the first time. She likes being a big sister to her brother Colin and when she is not dancing, she likes to play soccer and basketball.



OLIVIA GORSKY is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Nickel's Intermediate School. Olivia has always had a passion for music and dance. Olivia has danced competitively with Dance Dimensions for seven years, while taking additional technique at Ada Dance Academy. Olivia is excited to be a part of the West Michigan Youth Ballet for her second year.



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



DEBBIE HARRISON is in 3rd grade and is homeschooled. She is in her fourth year of dance and has attended Integrity School of Dance and Grand Rapids School of Ballet. She also has a love of music and plays piano and violin. Her favorite things to do in her free time are biking, drawing, writing letters to her pen pals, and playing with her three cats.



NATHAN HUFFMAN is honored to be dancing the role of Snow King! He is a sophomore at Traverse City Central. This is his 3rd year dancing with WMYB. He also dances at The Dance Center and has been part of their competitive team for five years. He enjoys many genres of dance but is most passionate about ballet. Nathan would like to thank his family for all their love and support.



HAYDEN ISHAM is in 4th grade at Roguewood Elementary School. She is on the Petites Dance team at Rhythm Dance Center. Hayden loves ballet, tap, and hip hop. She can be found twirling and tapping everywhere she goes. Hayden thanks all her teachers and family for their support.



MIKAYLA ISMAIL is in 4th grade at Alto Elementary. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and HIS Dance Academy. She has been dance for five years. She would like to thank God, her dance teachers, her friends, and her family for supporting her dance dreams.



MIKENA ISMAIL is in 6th grade at Lowell Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and HIS Dance Academy. She used to do competitive cheer but is trying dance for a change. Mikena would like to thank God, her dance instructors, her family, and friends for supporting her dream of dance.



MILEAH ISMAIL is in 7th grade at Lowell Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and HIS Dance Academy. She has danced for six years and has danced one year en pointe. Mileah would like to thank God, her dance teachers, her family, and friends for helping her dance dream become a reality.



CORINNE JACOBSON has been dancing ballet for one year Ada Dance Academy and is very excited to be a part of her first performance with WMYB! She is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic school. She enjoys art, writing, singing, and spending time with friends and her three siblings. She also plays basketball and soccer and loves to swim.

ELLA JACOBSON has been dancing ballet at Ada Dance Academy for the past year and is very excited to be a part of her first performance with WMYB! She is 10 years old and in 4th grade at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic school. She enjoys art, science, and spending time with friends and her three siblings. She also plays on the Fox Motors Hockey Girls Squirt Team and loves spending time outdoors.



ANNALYNE JUDGE I am 10 years old and in the 5th grade at Murray Lake Elementary in Lowell. I have been dancing since I was two. I enjoy different styles of dance and ballet, hip hop, jazz, and lyrical are my favorites. I also like volleyball. A special thanks to my parents for everything they do for me.



ELLIOT KINTSNER is a 5th grader at Knapp Forest. This is her 2nd year with WMYB, but her 6th year dancing at Hearts In Motion. She is very excited to be back on the stage and would like to thank her family, friends, and dance instructors for their continuous support of her passion. Also, shout out to Gully and Lincoln.



KAMI KOETSIER I am a sophomore at FHC. I have been dancing since I was three years old. I dance at Ada Dance Academy. This will be my seventh year dancing for the WMYB. Thanks to my family and friends for all of your support.



BRECKTI KORICAN is 11 years old and is in 6th grade at Northern Trails School. She has been dancing for six years and is at the Ada Dance Academy. She is extra appreciative of WMYB, her dance teachers, and the important things in life because of the challenges of 2020. Breckti also enjoys many outdoor activities, church groups, and her dog Winnie.



KATELYN LENTERS is a sophomore at Grand Rapids Christian High School. She has been dancing for 12 years and this is her 11th performance with WMYB. She also takes classes at Ada Dance Academy. She enjoys hanging out with friends, going shopping, and traveling.



TESSA LINDEMANN is in 6th grade at Kraft Meadows Middle School in Caledonia. Tessa has been dancing for nine years, and is currently a competitive dancer at Imprint Dance Company. Tessa has been in ballet productions before, but this is her first season with WMYB. She'd like to thank her family for all their support and her friends for always encouraging her.



CARLI MAIS I am 12 years old. I'm a 7th grader at Eastern Middle School, and I've been dancing for nine years. I attend Ada Dance Academy, and this is my 4th year with West Michigan Youth Ballet. When I am not dancing, you will find me swimming, boating, or hanging out with friends and family.



RYLIN MAIS is 10 years old, and in the 4th grade at Knapp Forest Elementary. She attends Ada Dance Academy, and has been dancing since age three. Rylin also enjoys basketball, lacrosse, and spending time with her family and friends. This is her second year with WMYB, and she is excited to be a part of this performance!



ELEANOR MARTIN is a freshman at City High. She has been dancing since the age of two. Eleanor dances at the Ada Dance Academy and spent the summer of 2020 with SAB. Eleanor loves classical ballet as well as contemporary dance. She is excited to be in her fourth performance with WMYB. Eleanor wishes to thank her teachers, friends, and family for all of their support.



ABBY MAUK is nine years old and a 4th grader at Meadow Brook Elementary. She is happy to be performing in her second WMYB *Nutcracker* production. Abby has been taking ballet at EAU Dance for the past 3 years. She also loves cheer, swimming, and camping with her family. Abby is grateful for this opportunity and for all who make this performance possible.



KARA MAUK is eight years old and a 2nd grader at Meadow Brook Elementary. She is excited to be a part of her first WMYB production. Kara has been dancing since she was three and takes ballet at EAU Dance. She also loves basketball, swimming, and hiking. Kara is thankful for this opportunity and for the many volunteers and donors who make this performance possible.



ELLIOTT MCALPINE is a 9th grader at Forest Hills Eastern. She has been dancing for the past eleven years and currently takes classes at Ada Dance. She has been part of WMYB for six years and this is her 12th performance. In addition to dancing, Elliott is a competitive swimmer and enjoys hanging out with her family and friends.



MADELYN MILLER I'm 12 years old. I go to Lowell Middle School and am in 7th grade. This is my fourth year dancing in *The Nutcracker* with the WMYB. I dance at David Matthew Studios and my favorite styles of dance are contemporary and ballet. When I'm not dancing, I enjoy playing with my dogs, cooking, and baking. I would like to thank my teachers Ms. Christen and Mr. David for turning me into a better dancer.



MARISA MILLER I love to dance! I am currently dancing at David Matthew Studios, and my favorite styles of dance are ballet and contemporary! I am 13 years old and I attend 8th grade at Lowell middle school. When I am not dancing, I love hanging out with friends and family and being outdoors!



GRACE MINARD This is Grace's second year performing with WMYB and she couldn't be more excited! Grace dances at David Matthew Studios and Ada Dance Academy. Besides dance, Grace enjoys hanging out with friends. She would like to thank her friends, family, and dance instructors for their continued love and support.



TAYA MOORE is in the 8th grade and studies dance at Ada Dance Academy. When she is not in the studio, she can be found reading a good book, creating art, and having fun with her brother and her friends. Taya wishes to thank her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.



SOPHIA NESS is in 11th grade at Forest Hills Eastern High School. She is so excited for this WMYB season and cannot wait to perform with her second family. She is incredibly grateful for Laura Berman, David Braciak, and Stephen Sanford for all of their support in and out of the studio.



BRITTANY ROSELY is a senior at Forest Hills Eastern High School. She has been performing with WMYB for 12 years. She takes dance classes at Ada Dance Academy. When not dancing, she enjoys baking, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. She would like to thank her family and teachers for their love and support throughout the years.



ELAINA SANFORD is 10 years old and in the 5th grade at Holy Spirit School. She is an outgoing kid who was inspired to start dancing after watching her dad on stage with the Grand Rapids Ballet. Elaina is the middle child of two sisters and two brothers. She enjoys writing stories, laughing with friends, bouncing on her trampoline, and camping with her family in the summer. Elaina is always dancing wherever she goes and loves seeing her friends at Ada Dance and WMYB. This is her third year dancing in a full length performance with WMYB and she is very excited to be a part of the WMYB family once again!



HARLEE SCHOLTEN is a senior at Wellspring Prep. She has been dancing for 15 years, and performing with West Michigan Youth Ballet for the past 10 years. She currently dances with HIS Dance Academy and Ada Dance Academy. Harlee would like to thank her instructors, friends, and family for all of their love and support.



AUDREY SOKORAI I'm 12 and I am in 7th grade at Forest Hills Northern. I love to dance and I have been on pointe for almost four years. This is my fourth year with WMYB and it's so fun. I am so excited to be Clara and have been waiting for this part all these years. I'm so glad I get to experience this amazing opportunity. I hope you enjoy the WYMB *Nutcracker* show!!



AVA STAUFFER is eight years old and in 3rd grade at Meadow Brook elementary school. She has danced at Hearts in Motion for five seasons. Ava performed with the Sparkle Squad pom and dance team last year and is a current member of the Petite Ballet Company. She is thrilled to dance her first season with WMYB. A special thank you to Miss Ali and the HMD teachers for inspiring her love of dance.

ANYA SHAVELL is a 3rd grader at Ada Vista Elementary. In addition to her love for dance, she enjoys reading, piano, soccer, and skiing. This is her first appearance on stage with WMYB and she is excited and grateful for this wonderful opportunity.



MEGAN STEEBY Megan is very excited to be part of WMYB again this year. She is a sophomore at Forest Hills Northern. She started dancing when she was three and has loved it ever since. She dances at Imprint Dance Company and Ada Dance Academy. Megan is thankful for the constant support from her dance instructors, friends, and family.



JOSEPHINE SULKA I am in 7th grade at Northern Hills Middle School and I dance at Ada Dance Academy. I love my dog Daisy, hanging out with friends, and of course dance! I have been dancing for 10 years and my favorite styles are contemporary, ballet, and dancing en pointe. Thank you so much to all my dance teachers, friends, and family for their support and love. I am so excited to be in this WMYB production!



HANNAH TRUMAN is sixteen years old. She is a junior and is homeschooled. She studies ballet, pointe, tap, and jazz at the Mt. Pleasant School of Dance. Hannah has had the privilege of dancing at Ballet 5:8's summer intensive in Chicago. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support. She would also like to thank Andrea Purrenhage and Kathy Francis for helping her grow as a dancer.



ELIANA TUCKER I am a sophomore at West Michigan Aviation Academy. I am so excited to be a part of the West Michigan Youth Ballet for my sixth season. I dance at Ada Dance Academy and would like to thank my teachers Steven Sanford and Laura Berman. Besides dance, I love to read, draw, learn Spanish, and hang out with my friends.

GRACE VANDENBOSCH is in 11th grade at Forest Hills Northern. She has been dancing since the age of five and this will be her third *Nutcracker*. She wishes to thank her family and friends and especially her teachers for their skill and patience.



LEXI VAN LEEUWEN is a 4th grader at Ada Vista Elementary. She has been taking a variety of dance styles at Hearts in Motion for six years. She is also in her 4th year on the Hearts in Motion competition team.



MAJA VIDINLIC is in 7th Grade at Forest Hills Central. She dances at Imprint Dance Company and would like to give special thanks to her parents and family.



KATHERINE WISSER is in 6th grade and goes to Blandford School. She has been dancing for five years and goes to Ada Dance Academy. When not dancing, she enjoys reading, and spending time with her brother and sister.



ELLA YENCHAR is 12 years old and has been dancing with West Michigan Youth Ballet for four years and Ada Dance Academy for six years. Ella likes reading, fishing, and spending time outside with friends and family. Ella would like to thank her dance teachers for getting her this far and her family for their support.

WMYB Dancers

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

Academy of Performing Arts
 Ada Dance Academy
 Balletmore
 Dance Dimensions
 David Matthew Studios
 EAU Dance - Gaslight Village
 Hearts in Motion
 HIS Dance Academy
 Imprint Dance Company
 Lakeshore Dance Academy
 Mount Pleasant School of Dance
 Rhythm Dance Center
 Tye Chua Dance

SAVE THE DATE!

*West Michigan Youth Ballet is pleased
to announce our Spring Performance*

Sleeping Beauty

March 26, 2021



Information will
soon be available
at wmyb.org