



WEST MICHIGAN
YOUTH BALLET
presents

the Sleeping Beauty

May 21 • 7:00PM May 22 • 2:00PM 2021



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

-Dr. Seuss

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graduation and final performance with WMYB!

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DEAR DANCERS AND FAMILIES,

I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead you all through the 2021 *Sleeping Beauty* production. As I gain some perspective on this spring show, I find myself truly grateful that we have been able to be together at the studio and to finally perform once again. Although this year has given us plenty of hurdles to jump, you have all persevered and your work ethic this season has brought us here to this moment.

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

As COVID has shaped our past year, with two of our past productions being canceled, I can't help but feel a sense of newness as we step out onto the stage. "Toi toi toi" to all of our dancers! Thank you to your families for providing the amazing support and opportunity for you to enjoy this spring performance season..

Your Director,
Stephen Sanford

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OUR MISSION

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

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

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

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Thank you!



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.





THE STORY OF THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

ACT I Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was born. Her parents named her Aurora and invite 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.



CAST

Aurora	Lexi Erbenbraut
Aurora Understudies	Ellie Everhart, Eliana Tucker
Prince	Mason Bassett
King	Chip Scholten (FRI), Harrison Centner (SAT)
Queen	Katrina Cassady
Beauty Fairy	Eleanor Martin
Confidence Fairy	Ashley Barkel, Sophia Erbenbraut
Grace Fairy	Brittany Rosely
Song Fairy	Nessa Galvin
Courage Fairy	Harlee Scholten
Wisdom (Lilac) Fairy	Ellie Everhart (FRI), Eliana Tucker (SAT)
Master of Ceremonies	Harrison Centner (FRI), William Schutte (SAT)
Jesters	Stella Gulick, Aubrey Doyle, Evi Fras
Nanny	Brooklyn Elsea
Messenger/Court Attendee	Lilah Asarch
Duchesses	Anna Pepper, Abbie Blok, Kamryn Koetsier, Katelyn Artz, Laura Frillmann, Katelyn Lenters
Courtiers	Elliott McAlpine, Linnea Dever, Taya Moore, Josephine Sulka, Emma Diaz-Lawton, Megan Steeby
Carabosse	Chloe Feather
Lead Minion	Injeel Starr
Minions	Daria Batzner (FRI), Hannah Truman (FRI), Peyton Schmitt, Aaliyah Robinson, Anahera Wilkes, Marcie Sower, Cate Afman, Elaina Sanford, Mikena Ismail, Cora Clark, Leah Selleck
Flower girls	Mileah Ismail, Hadley Breit, Carli Mais, Katherine Wisser, Breckti Korican, Ella Yenchar, Meagan Conn, Laurel Barrows, Sophia Bergsma
Sprites	Brynna Kozick, Charlotte DeYoung, Ava Stauffer, Whitney Breit, Emilyn Conn, Mikayla Ismail, Rylin Mais, Sydney Byrne, Kennedy Fritter, Aila Ellis
Rose Adagio	Wolfgang Goluska, Nathan Huffman, Mason Bassett
Hunt Party	Laura Frillmann, Wolfgang Goluska, Abbie Blok, Anna Pepper, Katelyn Lenters, Kamryn Koetsier
Dragonflies	Hadley Breit, Mileah Ismail
Butterflies	Katelyn Artz, Sophia Bergsma
Fireflies	Lilah Asarch, Katherine Wisser
Ladybug	Evi Fras
Grasshoppers	Stella Gullick, Aubrey Doyle

CAST

Little Red	Elliott McAlpine
Wolf	Ethan Mathias
Mother Cat	Brooklyn Elsea
Three Little Kittens	Taya Moore, Emma Diaz-Lawton, Josephine Sulka
Bluebirds	Nathan Huffman, Eleanor Martin
Silver Fairy	Nessa Galvin
Gold Fairy	Megan Steeby
Ruby Fairy	Sophia Erbenraut
Emerald Fairy	Ashley Barkel
Sapphire Fairies	Brittany Rosely, Harlee Scholten
Diamond Fairy	Eliana Tucker (FRI), Ellie Everhart (SAT)
Garland Dancers	Mileah Ismail, Hadley Breit, Carli Mais, Katherine Wisser, Breckti Korican, Ella Yenchar, Meagan Conn, Sophia Bergsma, Linnea Dever, Laurel Barrows

WMYB loves to welcome back their Alumni Dancers! We're so pleased that the following graduates were able to join our performance.

KATRINA CASSADY



Katrina has performed in twelve productions with WMYB. She is studying business at Xavier University and is a member of the Xavier University Dance Team.

HARRISON CENTNER



This will be Harrison's fifth performance with WMYB. He is studying math and computer science at the University of Michigan.

GUEST DANCERS

MASON BASSETT



Mason Bassett is from Bryan, Ohio where he began his training at the Bryan Community School of Dance and the Ballet Theatre of Toledo. He later attended Interlochen Arts Academy where he performed principal roles in Joseph Morrissey's *Sleeping Beauty*, and Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo*. After graduation from Interlochen, Mason pursued a Bachelor of Science in Music in Ballet with an Outside Field in Arts Management at Indiana University Jacob's School of Music. While studying at Indiana University, his repertoire included The Husband in Jerome Robbins' *The Concert*, Twyla Tharp's *Deuce Coupe*, soloist in Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel*, and Sugar Plum Cavalier in Michael Vernon's *Nutcracker*. Mason has also guested in the Westmoreland Ballet Company's *Nutcracker* and in *Billy Elliot* at the Weathervane Playhouse. He is excited to be performing with the West Michigan Youth Ballet again.

WOLFGANG GOLUSKA



Wolfgang Goluska is a student at Grand Valley State University where he majors in dance. He has trained in many forms of dance, but has primarily focused on ballet. He is from Okemos and has trained and performed with several studios and companies around the Lansing area, with the most recent being Children's Ballet Theatre. With these studios, he has had the pleasure of performing roles such as the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, Don Quixote in *Don Quixote* and the Knave of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*. Over the summers he has had the pleasure of training with North East Academy of Dance, Cincinnati Ballet, and Grand Rapids Ballet in their respective Summer intensives. He hopes to join a professional ballet company some day, and is currently working hard at GVSU as well as guest dancing with some local companies to further his exposure and training.

WILLIAM SCHUTTE



William is so excited to be joining West Michigan Youth Ballet for *The 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 *Elf The Musical* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. He is the owner of Kicks Dancewear, and a proud sponsor of West Michigan Youth Ballet.

WMYB BIOGRAPHIES

STEPHEN SANFORD - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Stephen started his training at Southhold Dance Theater in South Bend, Indiana. He then went on to North Carolina School of the Arts where he trained under Melissa Hayden, Duncan Noble, and Warren Conover. He later went to Ballet Chicago Studio Company and was mentored by Dan Duell and Patricia Blair. Stephen has attended numerous summer courses including School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Hartford Ballet. Stephen has had a strong performing career with the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. He joined in 2001 and has been the lead man in many productions. As principal dancer, he has had the opportunity to work with famous choreographers from all over the world such as Mario Radacovsky, Kirk Peterson, and Olivier Wevers to name a few. Stephen has performed as a guest artist for New York Theater Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Geiger Ballet, Southhold Dance Theater, and Ohio Theatre Ballet. He has been teaching ballet since 2000. He was a professor at Grand Valley State University and also taught at Grand Rapids Ballet School. He currently teaches at Ada Dance Academy, where he is part owner. Stephen is a family man with five children, Julia, Andrew, Elaina, Nathan, and Lucy with his wife, Jennifer.

LAURA SCHWENK-BERMAN - CHOREOGRAPHER



Laura Schwenk-Berman is an Artistic Director of 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.

JODY JAGLOWSKI - CHOREOGRAPHER



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

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

HEATHER CASSADY - COSTUME DESIGNER, COSTUMER, SEAMSTRESS



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

and conventions. This is her 12th production with WMYB. Heather would like to thank her husband, John, and their children John, Joshua, and Katrina for all their love and support.

Thank you to my incredibly talented team that continues to work endless hours to make spectacular costumes. Carrie Everhart and Kristin Throop you amaze me on a daily basis. You are brilliant! You go above and beyond to make everything we build beautiful and of the highest quality. There truly is love in every stitch! Thank you to Patti, Judy, Melissa, Rachel, Darleen and Margie for all of your hard work during these trying times. I am incredibly grateful for all of you and proud to be a part of this team.

Keeping you in stitches, Heather Cassady

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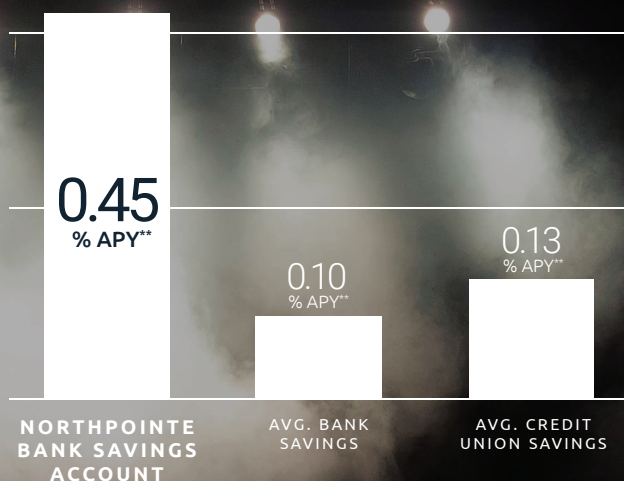
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*Congratulations Harlee!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Jaxton*



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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 ten years, 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 fall, she will be attending Northern Michigan University for Pre-Dental. 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 Cassady 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. Next year, I will be majoring in dance at Hope College, after receiving the Distinguished Artist Award. 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 that 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 I am today. I couldn't be more grateful! Next year I plan to attend Texas Christian University (TCU) to double major in Accounting and Computer Science. 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 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



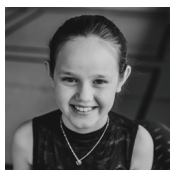
It is hard to believe that this is my final performance with the West Michigan Youth Ballet. I am so grateful to have been part of it for these many years. Through dance, I have learned the importance of responsibility, hard work, and dedication. Thank you to all of my dance teachers and family members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



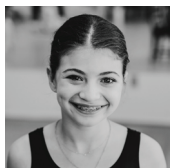
It's no secret...
We love and
support the arts.
Congratulations
Dancers!

marie clark
PHOTOGRAPHY

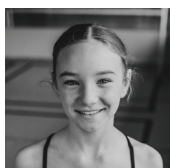
WMYB DANCERS



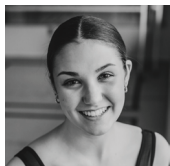
CATE AFMAN is an 11 year old in fifth grade at Central Woodlands. She has been dancing for 8 years. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and is thrilled to be performing in her fourth WMYB performance. Cate enjoys reading, biking, playing with her friends and her three brothers, and is an animal advocate!



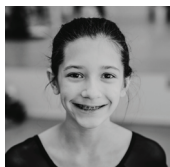
LILAH ASARCH I am 10 years old and in the 4th grade at St. Paul the Apostle. I have been dancing since I was 2 years old and I am currently dancing at Ada Dance Academy. This is my 2nd year with WMYB. In my free time, I like to read, swim, and spend time with family and friends.



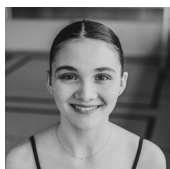
KATELYN ARTZ I am in 7th grade at East Grand Rapids Middle School and I have been dancing for six years. I train at Haus of Glass and Ada Dance Academy. I began my training with Miss Melanie Brossiet at Balletmore Dance Studio. Miss Melanie really started my love for dance and I am so happy to have trained 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.

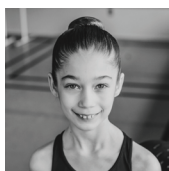


LAUREL BARROWS Laurel is 12 years old and in seventh grade at Jenison Junior High. This is her ninth year of dance and third year performing with WMYB. When not dancing, Laurel is usually reading or playing the piano or clarinet. She also enjoys spending time with her little sister Linnea, their dog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

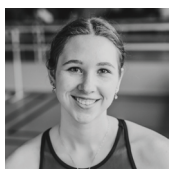


DARIA BATZNER Hi! I'm Daria Batzner. This will be my fourth show with WMYB, and I'm excited to perform the role of a Minion! I currently dance at Mount Pleasant School of Dance and I'm 16 years old. I'm excited to make this performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* the best one yet!!!

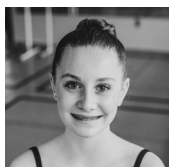
WMYB DANCERS



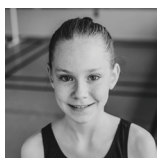
SOPHIE BERGSMA is a sixth grader at Lowell Middle School and takes dance classes at Ada Dance Academy. She started dancing when she was two and has loved it ever since. When she is not dancing, she enjoys painting, riding her bike, and spending time with her friends. She would like to thank her family,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



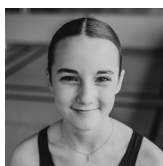
HADLEY BREIT is a seventh grader at Byron Center West Middle School. She has been dancing at HIS Dance Academy and Ada Dance Academy for five years, with one year en pointe. Hadley also enjoys playing lacrosse and hanging out with her friends when she isn't dancing. She thanks her family, God, and dance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

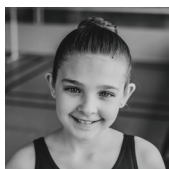


SYDNEY BYRNE is in the fifth grade Spanish Immersion program at Northern Trails. She has been dancing for 4½ years. Sydney would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her this year.

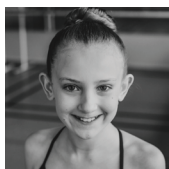


CORA CLARK is 12 years old and in sixth grade at NorthPointe Christian. She has been dancing for four years and currently dances at Ada Dance Academy. She has performed in *Narnia* with Midway Theater Company and *Red* with HIS Dance. She is excited to be performing in her first show with West Michigan Youth Ballet. She would like to thank her family, friends and dance instructors for their love and support.

WMYB DANCERS



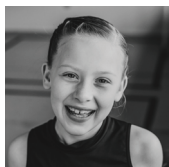
EMILYN CONN I am 9 years old and a fourth grader at Knapp Forest Elementary. This is my 8th year of dance, but my first season with West Michigan Youth Ballet. This is my 4th season on the competition team at Imprint Dance Company. In my free time, I like to read, paint, and play outside. I want to thank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



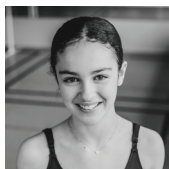
MEAGAN CONN I am 12 years old and a seventh grader at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School. This is my 11th year of dance and my third year dancing with WMYB. This is also my 7th year competing for Imprint Dance Company. In my free time, I love to read, do crafts, play outside, and ride my bike. I want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



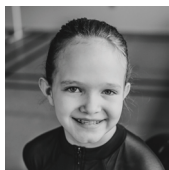
LINNEA DEVER is in eighth grade and goes to East Grand Rapids Middle School. She has now been dancing for 10 years and currently takes classes at Ada Dance Academy. In her free time, she loves to read, get Starbucks, hang out with friends and family, travel, and cuddle with her three cats.



CHARLOTTE DEYOUNG is 8 years old and in third grade at Zeeland Public Schools. She has been dancing at Avalon School of the Arts in Holland for 4 years. In addition to ballet, she enjoys acrobatics, jazz, and modern. This is Charlotte's first performance with WMYB! When Charlotte is not dancing, she enjoys soccer, Girl Scouts, reading, art, and exploring outdoors. She would like to thank her dance teachers for supporting her journey through dance!

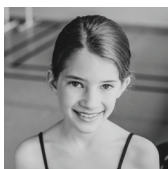


EMMA DIAZ-LAWTON is a sixth grader at Northern Trails. She has been dancing at Ada Dance Academy for eight years and with WMYB for the past four. She dances six days a week and still wants more. When she's not dancing, she likes to ride her bike, travel, and hang out with friends. She would like to thank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

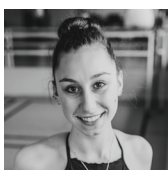
WMYB DANCERS



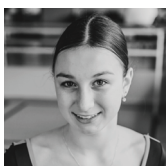
AILA ELLIS is 11 years old and a fifth grader at Northern Trails. She has been dancing for 6 years at Ada Dance Academy and this is her first year with WMYB. In her free time she loves to read, write and spend time with her family.



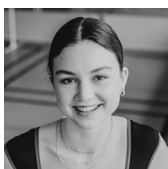
BROOKLYN ELSEA I attend Saint Louis Public Schools and dance at Academy of Performing Arts in Alma. I have been dancing for 7 years and enjoy all different kinds of dance. This is my second year with West Michigan Youth Ballet and I would like to thank them for the opportunity to expand my dance resume. #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.

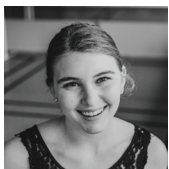


SOPHIA ERBENTRAUT is a freshman at Forest Hills Central High School. She has been dancing for about 10 years and has been with the West Michigan Youth Ballet for about 6 years. Sophie dances with Ada Dance Academy and David Matthew Studios, where she competes on their competition team. She has done various competitions, including placing in the Youth America Grand Prix. She was also going to further her ballet career this summer at Pacific Northwest Ballet, but the pandemic sadly effected that experience.



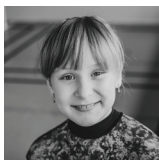
ELLIE EVERHART Ellie is very excited to be part of the WMYB again this year. Ellie lives in Ada and is a junior at Eastern High School. Ellie dances at Ada Dance Academy and David Matthew Studios. She has been taking dance instruction since she was four. She has attended Ballet Chicago and Ballet West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

WMYB DANCERS

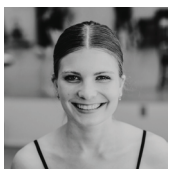


CHLOE FEATHER I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Byron Center High. This will be my 11th year with WMYB, and even though the season looks different, I am still very excited. Outside of dance, I am very involved in my studies, performing in BCHS productions, and cheering. I have loved all my years with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

so many friends.

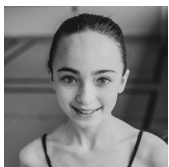


EVI FRAS I am 9 years old! This is my seventh year in ballet, and my 2nd year performing with WMYB! I would like to thank my parents and brother and sister for always supporting and encouraging me!



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

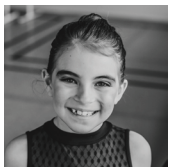
Academy and her family for their endless support!



KENNEDY FRITTER I moved from Ohio to Michigan in 2019. I am a fifth grader at Lakeside Elementary School. I started dancing 18 months ago at Ada Dance. I really love it there. I am new this year to West Michigan Youth Ballet. I am learning a lot and having so much fun.



NESSA GALVIN 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.



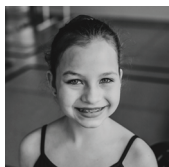
STELLA GULICK has been dancing since she could first walk, but has been taking lessons for three years. She is a third grader at Ada Vista Elementary. Stella loves all forms of dance, including ballet, jazz, hip hop, and acro and is proud to be on the competitive dance team. She'd like to thank her mom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

practices, her dad, sister Maya, and grandparents Nana, Grandpa Juan, and Grandma and Grandpa Gulick, and all of her wonderful instructors at Ada Dance.

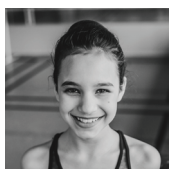
WMYB DANCERS



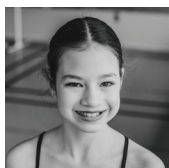
NATHAN HUFFMAN is a sophomore at Traverse City Central. This is his third year dancing with WMYB. He also dances at The Dance Center and has been part of their competitive team for five years. He enjoys many genres of dance, but is most passionate about ballet. Nathan would like to thank his family for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



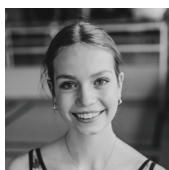
MIKAYLA ISMAIL is in fourth grade at Alto Elementary. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and HIS Dance Academy. She has been dance for five years. She would like to thank God, her dance teachers, her friends, and her family for supporting her dance dreams.



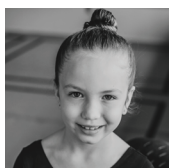
MIKENA ISMAIL is in sixth grade at Lowell Middle School. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and HIS Dance Academy. She used to do competitive cheer but is trying dance for a change. Mikenah would like to thank God, her dance instructors, her family, and friends for supporting her dream of dance.



MILEAH ISMAIL is in seventh 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.



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



BRYNNA KOZICK is 8 years old and a second grader in Zeeland, Michigan. She has been dancing for 6 years at Avalon School of the Arts, and this is her first season with the WMYB. When she is not dancing, Brynna also enjoys theatre classes, piano, soccer, and Girl Scouts. Brynna would like to thank her family and all of her amazing dance instructors.

WMYB DANCERS



BRECKTI KORICAN is 11 years old and is in sixth 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 12th performance with WMYB. She also takes classes at Ada Dance Academy. She enjoys hanging out with friends, going shopping, and traveling.



CARLI MAIS I am 12 years old. I'm a seventh 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 fourth 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 Eleanor is a freshman at City High and has been dancing since the age of two. She dances at Ada Dance Academy and A&A Center for Dance. Eleanor loves classical ballet as well as contemporary dance. She wishes to thank her teachers (Laura, Stephen, Samm, Jody, Alexei, Anna, and Judith), friends, and family for all their support.



ETHAN MATHIAS is a sixth grader at Michigan Connections Academy. This is his fifth year studying with Grand Rapids Ballet, and this year began studying this year at Ada Dance for tap, jazz, and private ballet lessons with Stephen. This is his first production with West Michigan Youth Ballet. Ethan studies piano at The Piano Cottage and loves to perform. He has performed in many theatrical productions, and appeared in TV shows and movies.

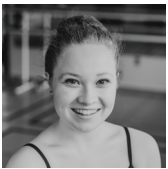
WMYB DANCERS



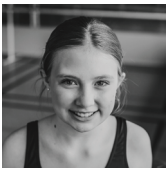
ELLIOTT MCALPINE is a ninth grader at Forest Hills Eastern. She has been dancing for the past eleven years and currently takes classes at Ada Dance. She has been part of West Michigan Youth Ballet for six years and this is her 13th performance. In addition to dancing, Elliott is a competitive swimmer and enjoys hanging out with her family and friends.



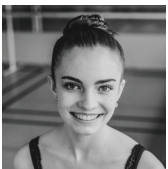
TAYA MOORE is in the eighth grade and studies dance at Ada Dance Academy. When she is not in the studio, she can be found reading a good book, creating art, and having fun with her brother and her friends. Taya wishes to thank her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.



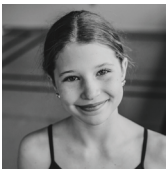
ANNA PEPPER is a junior at Grandville Public High School. She is very excited to be performing with West Michigan Youth Ballet for the first time. Anna would like to thank her family, in particular her Aunt Kara, for the encouragement and support throughout the years.



AALIYAH ROBINSON is 12 years old in seventh grade at NorthPointe Christian School. She dances at Expressions Dance Academy on the dance team. She does tap, hip hop, contemporary, lyrical, ballet, and loves art and choir. She has a 6-year-old sister Londyn and an 11-year-old brother Camdyn.



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 fifth 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!

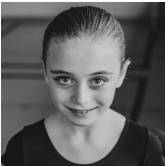
WMYB DANCERS



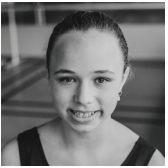
PEYTON SCHMITT I am a seventh grader at Forest Hills Northern. I have been dancing since I was three years old, with the last eight years at Imprint Dance Company. This is my first year at WMYB. I love being on a competitive dance team and my proudest moment was winning Nationals for our Hip Hop routine in 2019. I want to thank my IDC coaches for all the years of support.



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.



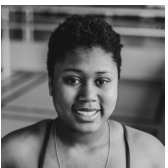
LEAH SELLECK is 9½ years old and has been dancing for about four years. She has recently fallen head over heels for ballet and is counting the days until she can dance en pointe. Leah takes ballet lessons at Ada Dance Academy, attends third grade at Collins Elementary, and is learning piano and ukulele. She would like to thank Ms. Margie, Mr. Stephen, and WMYB for all they do for this community of dancers.



MARCIE SOWER This is Marcie's first time participating with WMYB. She has been studying ballet for three years. She is homeschooled and is in the sixth grade. In her free time, Marcie enjoys running, baking, and playing her ukulele. Marcie has enjoyed being a part of *The Sleeping Beauty* and thanks you all for your support.

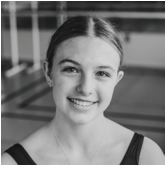


AVA STAUFFER is eight years old and in third grade at Meadow Brook elementary school. She has danced at Hearts in Motion for five seasons. Ava performed with the Sparkle Squad pom and dance team last year and is a current member of the Petite Ballet Company. She is thrilled to dance her first season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



INJEEL STARR I am 15 years old and I have been dancing for 13 years. I am a sophomore at Wellspring Prep and I love to hang out with friends.

WMYB DANCERS



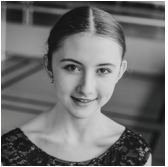
MEGAN STEEBY Megan is very excited to be part of WMYB again this year. She is a sophomore at Forest Hills Northern. She started dancing when she was three and has loved it ever since. She dances at Imprint Dance Company and Ada Dance Academy. Megan is thankful for the constant support from her dance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



JOSEPHINE SULKA I am in seventh 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!



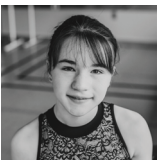
HANNAH TRUMAN is sixteen years old. She is a junior and is homeschooled. She studies ballet, pointe, tap, and jazz at the Mt. Pleasant School of Dance. Hannah has had the privilege of dancing at Ballet 5:8's summer intensive in Chicago. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their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

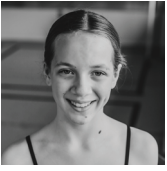


ANAHERA WILKES is 10 years old and in fourth grade. She has always loved dance, has taken ballet training since she was 3, and is currently enrolled in classes at Ada Dance Academy. Aside from dancing, she enjoys being involved in church, reading, playing basketball through school, gymnastics, and piano. This is her first performance with WMYB, and she is excited to see what she is capable of as she continues to grow.



KATHERINE WISSNER is in sixth 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.

WMYB DANCERS



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.



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
Avalon School of the Arts
Ballet Arts School of Dance
David Matthew Studios
HIS Dance Academy
Impressions Dance

Imprint Dance Company
Mount Pleasant School of Dance
NPC Dance Program
Synergy Dance Company
The Dance Center
Tye Chua Dance



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHEN SANFORD THANKS ...

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

All choreographers and staggers: Laura Berman, Jody Jaglowski, and Lisa Peasley. Much love and respect.

Dan Arganbright as production manager including help with the trailer, sets, backdrops and props. It has been a blessing having your support for WMYB.

Our board President Mary Anne Rosely for your sacrifice of time and talent that is felt throughout our organization. For your leadership in board matters and assistance with day-to-day operations.

Patti Diaz-Lawton, a strong organizer and COVID liaison during this trying time. You have shouldered a tremendous amount of stress during this pandemic for the sake of the Youth Ballet.

Thank you to the WMYB Board and the Advisory Board members for your wonderful support.

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

Caren Kerprich sacrificing your time and talent keeping our non-profit legitimate and sound.

All of our new WMYB Board members who joined with us right when this pandemic started and have been patient with my vision.

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

All participants of fundraising this season for your generosity.

Amy Feather for anticipating the boutique collection with her creative eye.

Liz Henry for WMYB communications and always keeping me on the path to lead.

Jane Pierangeli for the beautiful programs and artwork.

Jeremy Cox and Jane Bunting for being a dream to work with at an amazing facility.

Jennifer Sanford for website development and technical support.

Melissa Henry for social media through Facebook and Instagram.

Brigitte Nelson for her coordination with the retirement communities in our area.

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

A special thank you to Jennifer Sanford, Laura Berman, Heather Cassady, Mary Anne Rosely, Dan Arganbright, Caren Kerprich, Patti Diaz-Lawton, and Liz Henry for helping me keep my vision going forward.

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

Sincerely, *Stephen*

WMYB BOARD THANKS YOU

The WMYB Board wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the many hours of volunteer work generously given to the young dancers at WMYB.

We especially wish to recognize the chairpersons of the committees that help make these performances possible today.

Costuming

Heather Cassady,
Carrie Everhart, Kristin Throop

Stage Manager & Props

Dan Arganbright, Carola Gulick

Boutique

Amy Feather

Grant Funding

Mary Anne Rosely,
Lisa Mathias, Olivia Asarch

Media

Jennifer Sanford, Melissa Henry

Playbill & Marketing

Jane Pierangeli

Volunteer Guild

Rachel Yenchar, Patti Diaz-Lawton

Community Outreach

Brigitte Nelson, Mary Anne Rosely

Development

Sally Shull

Communications

Liz Henry

Operations Chair & COVID Liaison

Patti Diaz-Lawton, R.N.

Studio Photography

Marie Clark

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the following:

Technical Stage & Live Stream Coordinator, *Forest Hills Fine Arts Center*

Jeremy Cox

Box Office/Events, *Forest Hills Fine Arts Center*

Jane Bunting

Photographer, *FAC Performance*

Humberto Decanini Photography

Marie Clark Photography

Videographer/Live Stream

Matt Brunt



Kari Erbentraut will forever remain in our hearts as an inspiration to answer the call for volunteering. She gave wholeheartedly of her time, talent and support to the families of West Michigan Youth Ballet. We will always be grateful.

WMYB IN THE COMMUNITY

WMYB is working hard to open the world of ballet to youth and others throughout 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 west.mi.youthballet@gmail.com.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GRAND RAPIDS
YOUTH COMMONWEALTH

Thanks to several generous donors, WMYB has been able to bring the love of dance and the world of Ballet to the Boys & Girls Club – Paul I. Phillips Club. This past year, WMYB sent an instructor to teach ballet technique to several children, who may not have had the opportunity to learn dance instruction. This past winter, WMYB began a 12-week dance program to continue with those interested in dance. Stephen Sanford, WMYB Artistic Director, brought several of our cast members from *Sleeping Beauty* to perform and mentor these young dancers. In the future, WMYB anticipates introducing segments of our productions as an integrated learning experience for the Club dancers enriching their weekly dance experience.



Spectrum
Health

Thanks to the generous support of Spectrum Health, WMYB is able to live stream their *Sleeping Beauty* performances spanning two days to the patients and their families at Spectrum Health DeVos Children's Hospital. The WMYB dancers have been preparing these performances since February with weekly rehearsals. Rehearsing in small groups with mask wearing at all times and health screening prior to every rehearsal has been a learning process for these young dancers. We are so excited to bring the joy of *Sleeping Beauty* to them!



We will be live streaming to several different retirement communities to their residents who are unable to go out to these shows.



Thornhills Plaza

Supports the
West Michigan Youth Ballet!



Cascade Printing

The Cleaner Place

The Tailors

Life Chiropractic

Intentional Ink

Pacific Massage

Cascade Shoe

Sugar Momma's

Parooz

Salon Verity

SBS Transport

Grand Rapids Voice Collective

The Mortgage Company

Cascade Fur Salon

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

WMYB Summer Intensive

Dates: August 23, 24, 25

Time: 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm

For: Ballet students ages 8 and up



Don't miss this unique opportunity for your dancer to experience professional instruction in contemporary and classical dance. Space is limited and online registration opens on June 1, 2021.

For More Info: www.wmyb.org

Save The Date!

the Nutcracker

**Join us for a holiday tradition
at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center!**

**December 11-12 • 1:00PM & 4:30PM
with a Final Performance on December 18
at the Muskegon Frauenthal Center**