

Spokane Youth Ballet

presents

Summer Concert 2025



*Hansel & Gretel
and
Sleeping Rosa*

June 14, 2025

2:00 pm

Ridgeline High School

THE ACADEMY OF DANCE

PRESENTS

Fairy Tale Ballet



Pre-Ballet Workshops for ages 3-8
Dance class, craft, story, and snack time each day
In-studio showcase on Friday

July 7-11: The Snow Queen
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presents:

Summer Concert 2025
“Hansel and Gretel”
and
“Sleeping Rosa”

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Director's Note

Welcome, friends! It is truly a joy to be able to present our 2025 Summer Concert to you today. Our dancers have been working hard since January to bring to life these two stories of love and friendship.

The Academy of Dance has presented *Hansel and Gretel* before under the directorship of Kristen Potts. For this production, I decided to stage a new ballet. After reading the original Grimm's fairy tale for inspiration, I made a few tweaks to the storyline - you'll notice Hansel and Gretel only have a mother, who comes to regret her actions in the end. Our production also focuses on Gretel's character development from a passive girl who relies on Hansel for ideas and strength, ultimately becoming resourceful and brave on her own when it is up to her to save Hansel and herself.

Sleeping Rosa has also undergone something of a metamorphosis since we first presented it in 2019. Phaedra further developed Cara's character by giving her a backstory as Rosa's jealous cousin who struggles to fit in with her family and longs for acceptance and praise. This story has always been primarily about Cara and Rosa's relationship, and I hope you'll find that these and other changes to the original ballet make the story feel richer and the resolution more satisfying.

Scoring a ballet is challenging when you don't have a composer! I wanted the ballet to sound cohesive, which pretty much ruled out creating a patchwork of pieces from various sources. I also really liked the colorful and lively sound of Felix Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and wanted to find a score with a similar sound that hit all the right emotional notes. I found the answer in an old ballet by Arthur Saint-Léon with a score by Ludwig Minkus and Léo Delibes, *La Source*. With the exception of the Frogs music (the beloved Pizzicatti variation from Delibes' *Sylvia*), all the music for our *Hansel and Gretel* comes from that ballet. I hope you find it as charming and evocative as we have!

Finally, this production would not take place without the help of our many parent volunteers, who have freely donated their time and energy to monitor rehearsals; help our dancers backstage; transport our sets, props, costumes, and flooring; operate the box office; provide food to the dancers; host guest artists; create costumes and props; and much more. I truly cannot thank everyone enough for their support in bringing this event into fruition!

Enjoy the show!

Naomi Hanvey, SYB and Academy of Dance Director

Hansel and Gretel

Music: Léo Delibes and Ludwig Minkus

Choreography: Naomi Hanvey

Story:

Hansel and Gretel live with their parents in a tiny cottage at the edge of the forest. When the impoverished family runs out of food, their mother sends Hansel and Gretel into the forest in the hope they will be able to survive there. The siblings venture into the forest, dropping crumbs from their final loaf of bread on the forest floor in the hope they can find their way back home. As they wander, they encounter many different forest creatures until they are finally lulled to sleep by the gentle spirits of the night. However, at night, ravens eat the bread crumbs they dropped, so the next day they become hopelessly lost. Eventually, they come upon a cottage - an edible one! The now starving children begin to eat pieces of the house until they are confronted by the home's inhabitant. The woman in the cottage is at first kind to Hansel and Gretel and shows them her collection of enchanted candies. Suddenly, the woman traps Hansel in a cage! She is actually a witch who cooks children in her magical oven and turns them into candy. She intends to do the same to Hansel while forcing Gretel to clean day and night. An exhausted Gretel is comforted by the night spirits.

When the witch prepares to cook Hansel, Gretel tricks her, ultimately pushing the witch into her own oven. Immediately, her candy children are freed from their enchantment, and they thank Gretel bestowing the witch's treasure on the siblings. Now rich, Hansel and Gretel find their way home with the help of their forest friends, where they reunite with their father and live happily forever after.



Emily Loring, L.Ac. F.A.M.P.

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Cast:

(in order of appearance)

Gretel: Julia Snodgrass

Hansel: Special Guest Artist Joseph Boswell

Mother: Special Guest Artist Elizabeth Booth

Butterfly: Tia Herath

Little Butterflies: Cora Cochrane, Hailey Fleck, Ella Peterson-Kinney, Adelynn Siegfried

Little Dragonflies: Joel Bolster, Silas Cochrane, Miles Koenig

Dragonfly: Special Guest Artist Stephen Everson

Sylphs: Lia Blake, Jocelyn Frostad, Mckayla Funchess, Abigail Gray, Ezralee McArthur, Lily Peterson-Shuts, Brigid Sheehan, Yuri Vargas

Water Lilies: Mila Bhatti, Annemarie DeMeyer, Ruby Holley, IreLynn Hunt, Josie Scalph

Frogs: Adelaide Anderson, Mia Kjar, Lola Russell, Vivi Russell, Rhiannon Wheatley

Dryad: Landry Cummings

Puck: Special Guest Artist Stephen Everson

Fireflies: Alyson Bolster, Alexandra Cannon, Brynlee Lange, Aurora McCallum, Adeline Owings, Colette Stanton, Luciana Villa

The Night: Lily Bolton, Gabrielle Carter, Landry Cummings, Maggie Daley, Ayla Diaz, Tia Herath, Johanna Jones, Taylor Juhnke, Izzy Pooley, Hailey Stroh

Ravens: Hazel Anthony, Lyla Dubois, Sarhyi Cooper-Fonfara, Landon Gengras, Nautica Kjar, Sophie Velazquez, Anastasiia Yermolovych

Turtledoves: Taylor Juhnke and Special Guest Artist Stephen Everson

Witch: Special Guest Artist Elizabeth Booth

Marzipan Candies: Hailey Stroh with Ayla Diaz and Johanna Jones

Licorice Candy: Maggie Daley

Gingerbread Children: Rebecca Allen, Abigail Argaw, Adleigh Bunkelman, Geneva Cannon, Renae'Lynn Cooper-Fonfara, Lincoln Gengras, Savannah Sloane Gengras, Victoria Gibbs, Maddie Hurst, Nadine Hussey, Genevieve Jones, Sean O'Callaghan, Harper Ramey, Anna Semco, Mary Taylor Shockley, Sienna Wheatley

Intermission: 20 minutes

Sleeping Rosa

Music: various artists including Marc Anthony, Los Caballeros, CDM Latin Project, Celia Cruz, David Fernández Ortiz, Diana Krall, Natalia Lafourcade, Mariachi Oro y Plata de Pepe Chavez, Diana Navarro, Oub LCK, Yma Sumac, Techno Caribe, HA-ASH & Prince Royce, Don Omar, Ozomatli, and Compay Segundo Choreography: Phaedra Jarrett

Story:

It's a hot summer day on the urban streets of Spanish Harlem. The regular hustle and bustle of the neighborhood is languid under the damp heat. Rosa, the golden child of the family, is a teen in the midst of preparing for her quinceañera. Meanwhile, her jealous cousin Cara threatens the peace by rebelling against her mother and family. After Cara carelessly hurts Rosa's little sister, Rosa decides to not invite her to the big party. Enraged, Cara goes to a magic shaman to find a curse to get back at Rosa. She is given a magic shawl that grants the deepest wishes of its wearer. Cara crashes the party and is shunned by her community. Engulfed in jealousy, she wishes Rosa dead. Cara falls to shame and regret, while the world around her changes. The multi-faceted colors and cultures of the neighborhood give way to inevitable gentrification. A young man new to the area searches for love in a city filled with superficial women. The now remorseful Cara finds him asleep and enchants him to see Rosa in her eternal slumber. When he awakens, he searches for the ethereal girl from his dreams. Cara shows him that he must make a dangerous journey to the underworld to find her. Once there, the young man must convince the Master of the Underworld to let her go, and then he needs to convince Rosa to return to the world of the living, and with his pure heart, restore her faith in love and her people.

Cast:

Rosa: Tia Herath

Cara: Taylor Juhnke

Diego: Special Guest Artist Joseph Boswell

Mijo: Special Guest Artist Stephen Everson

Mama: Rebekah Welch

Cara's Friends/Boss Babes: Maggie Daley and Julia Snodgrass

Tías: Landry Cummings and Hailey Stroh

Little Sister: Ayla Diaz

Death: Special Guest Artist Elizabeth Booth

Folklórico Girls: IreLynn Hunt and Josie Scalph

Rosa's Friends: Lily Bolton, Gabrielle Carter, Isabella Carter, Johanna Jones, Izzy Pooley, Lani Riggs, Kaelyn Stewart

Little Sister's Friends: Lia Blake, Mckayla Funchess, Abigail Gray, Ezralee McArthur, Lily Peterson-Shuts

Mama Dove: Abigail Gray

Doves: Rebecca Allen, Abigail Argaw, Lincoln Gengras, Savannah Sloan Gengras, Maddie Hurst, Nadine Hussey, Nautica Kjar, Anna Semco

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Guest Artists



ELIZABETH BOOTH

Elizabeth Booth began her dancing journey when her mom enrolled her in a ballet class at 5 years of age. A deep desire to express emotion and story through dance has grown in her ever since. She received her two-year Certificate in Dance Performance and Choreography from Störling's Artist Development Program in Kansas City, Kansas, and trained for a year in Ad Deum's Professional Dance Development Program in Houston, Texas.

Elizabeth has taken part in Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ad Deum Dance Company, Zion Dance Project, and Inlet Dance Theater's intensives. One of her favorite dance opportunities involved touring Germany, France, and the surrounding countries as a company member with Störling Moves. She is currently in her third season with Vytal Movement Dance, first season with Amber Hongsermeier and Dancers, and freelances all around Spokane, Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Elizabeth thoroughly enjoys creating live art through choreography, and finds fulfillment in teaching dance. When she is not dancing, she can probably be found somewhere in nature, with friends, or trying new food!



JOSEPH BOSWELL

Joseph Boswell was born in Spokane, Washington. He started his ballet training at seven at Spokane Academy of Dance. After five years of training, he moved to Houston, Texas where he trained at the Houston Ballet Academy. After training at HBA, he moved to Boston, where he continued his dance training at Boston Ballet School for another three years. During his training he was offered many scholarships to Boston Ballet School including the Mikko Nissinen

Guest Artists

Scholarship before being offered a contract for Boston Ballet's second company. Throughout his career, performed numerous principal roles such as Franz from Coppelia, Conrad from Le Corsaire, La Vivandiere, the Harlequinade pas de deux, and Jorma Elo's Slice to Sharp. Joseph also danced alongside the Boston main company in ballets such as Mikko Nissinen's Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Nutcracker as well as Rudolph Nureyev's Don Quixote. Joseph is now a dancer with the Kansas City Ballet and has performed in Septime Webre's Alice in Wonderland, Devon Carney's The Nutcracker, Anna-Marie Holmes Don Quixote, Lila York's Celts, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's Tulips and Lobsters.

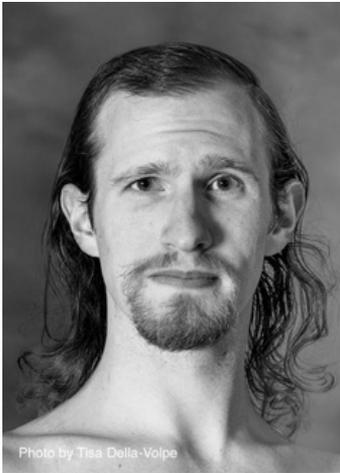


Photo by Tisa Della-Volpe

STEPHEN EVERSON

Originally from Toledo OH, Stephen discovered his love for dance at the age of 12. His formal ballet training began years later at Ballet 5:8 School of the Arts and later continued at Project Ballet. In 2018, Stephen joined Ballet 5:8's professional company as a trainee where he toured and performed across the country. In 2019, he transitioned to working as a freelance artist, dancing roles such as Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, and

the Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*. He also collaborated with Charleston Ballet Theatre as a guest artist.

In 2021, Stephen joined First State Ballet Theatre, where his repertoire includes Dracula in Viktor Plotnikov's *Dracula*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Dr Coppelius in *Coppélia*, *Fantasy to Dvořák*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and excerpts from *Raymonda* and *La Bayadère*. He has also performed original works by choreographers Zachary Kapuluck, Blake Krapels, Maeghan McHale, and many others.

In 2024, Stephen was invited to perform as a guest artist at the Belfast International Ballet Festival in Northern Ireland.

S & B Company Dancers



LILY BOLTON



GABRIELLE CARTER



ISABELLA CARTER*



AYLA DIAZ



TIA HERATH



JOHANNA JONES



JULIA SNODGRASS



KAELYN STEWART*

**Academy of Dance alumna*

SUB Company Dancers



LANDRY CUMMINGS



MAGGIE DALEY



SHALIE GALLAGHER*



TAYLOR JUHNKE



IZZY POOLEY



LANI RIGGS*



HAILEY STROH



BEKAH WELCH

2025-2026 *Season Sponsors*

Spokane Youth Ballet exists to share the art of dance with the community of Spokane through training and performance opportunities for dance students and through educational outreach programs with local schools. Participants in SYB do not pay audition, rehearsal, or costume fees, so all our funding comes from the community through grants, ticket sales and the generous contributions of our sponsors.

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Marla DeMars

Donovan Fonfara

Angela Gengras

Ashley Hamlin

Melanie Harrison

Karlie McCaa

Randal Naylor

Samantha Owings

Hannah Peterson-Kinney

Ofelia Velazquez

Patricia Wagenman

Michelle Wilson

Production Credits

Summer Concert 2025

Lighting Design: Devan Morgan

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Spokane Youth Ballet

Director: Naomi Hanvey

Resident Choreographer: Phaedra Jarrett

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Academy of Dance

Director: Naomi Hanvey

Faculty: Lesley Gray, Phaedra Jarrett, Kaelyn Stewart, Sara Wright

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Classroom Assistants: Landry Cummings, Annemarie DeMeyer, Ayla Diaz, Taylor Herath, Johanna Jones, Julia Snodgrass



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