

Spokane Youth Ballet presents
Summer Concert 2026

*The Little Prince
&
La Boutique Fantasque*



Saturday, June 13, 2026
1:00 pm

Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox

The Academy of Dance

presents:



Come explore the magic of your favorite fairy tales through movement, music, and more! **Storybook Movement & Dance** is an engaging introduction to the world of ballet and theater for young dancers with or without prior experience. Each day consists of age-appropriate dance instruction, a themed craft, a healthy snack, and story time. The workshop will culminate in a mini-performance for parents.

2026 Workshops:

July 6-10 Sleeping Beauty

August 3-7 A Midsummer Night's Dream

Ages 6-8 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, \$100

Ages 3-5 1:00-2:30 pm, \$80

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presents

SUMMER CONCERT 2026

*The Little Prince
&
La Boutique Fantasque*



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The Little Prince

Based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Music: Dead Can Dance, Peter Gabriel, Steve Reich, Yo-Yo Ma & Bobby McFerrin, Zap Mama. Special music by Musha Marimba for the Birds and by Melanie Luedders, Eugene Jablonsky, and Sally Jablonsky for "Who Can Sail?"

Choreography: Phaedra Jarrett

Narration: JD Thayer, with Perry Thayer as the voice of the Little Prince and Phaedra Jarrett as the voice of the Fox

Story:

The Little Prince is the story of the strange and magical encounter a pilot, stranded in the vast Sahara Desert, has with a young boy. The little prince, who never forgets a question once he asks it and rarely answers questions asked of him, reveals his life through nightly musings as the pilot attempts to repair his airplane.

While caring for his planet, the Little Prince discovers a new, special flower growing, a rose. The rose is beautiful, petulant, and vain. She is demanding, and even though the prince loves her, he finds himself confused and discontent. He leaves his planet in search of knowledge and meets many confusing grown-ups on the way.

Once he lands on Earth, he encounters a snake, a field of roses, an echoing mountain, and a fox. Through all his travels and all his discoveries, the Fox teaches him what he so desperately wants to understand: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."



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The Little Prince

Cast:

The Little Prince: Maggie Daley

The Pilot: Special Guest Artist Colby Deemer

(in order of appearance):

Stars: SYB Alumna Sara Wright with Rebecca Allen, Abigail Argaw, Layni Blake, Mika Garrett-Gosling, Lincoln Gengras, Savannah Sloane Gengras, Maddie Hurst, Nadine Hussey, Harper Ramey, Anna Semco, Mary Taylor Shockley, Bridget Smith, Paxton St. Mark

The Rose: SYB Alumna Tia Herath

Birds Group A: Gabrielle Carter, Landry Cummings, Annemarie DeMeyer, Reagan DeRuyter, Kinley Harrison, Johanna Jones, Taylor Juhnke, Sophia Lister, Mary Moore, Izzy Pooley, SYB Alumna Kaelyn Stewart, Bekah Welch, SYB Alumna Sara Wright

Birds Group B: Freya Anglin, Lia Blake, Abigail Gray, Nora Hawkins, Genevieve Jones, Nautica Kjar, Ezralee McArthur, Lily Peterson-Shuts, Maya Shelyukh, Yuri Vargas, Elise Writebol, Anastasiia Yermolovych

The King: Landry Cummings

The Businessman: SYB Alumna Kaelyn Stewart

The Tippler: Gabrielle Carter

The Conceited Man: Rebekah Welch

The Lamplighter: Izzy Pooley

The Snake: Johanna Jones

Echoes: Freya Anglin, Lia Blake, Abigail Gray, Nora Hawkins, Genevieve Jones, Nautica Kjar, Ezralee McArthur, Lily Peterson-Shuts, Maya Shelyukh, Yuri Vargas, Elise Writebol, Anastasiia Yermolovych

Roses: Gabrielle Carter, Landry Cummings, Annemarie DeMeyer, Reagan DeRuyter, Kinley Harrison, Johanna Jones, Sophia Lister, Mary Moore, Izzy Pooley, SYB Alumna Kaelyn Stewart, Rebekah Welch, SYB Alumna Sara Wright

The Fox: Taylor Juhnke

The Sheep: Anna Semco

Director's Note

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *Le Petit Prince* (The Little Prince) has had a special place in my heart ever since my husband read the book to me when we were dating, close to 20 years ago. What starts as a whimsical story about what separates artists from "grown-ups" grows into a critique about modern society with its consumerism and shallow understanding of "matters of importance" and then into a beautiful insight into love and loss. I remember being so moved by the comparison of falling in love to taming a wild animal or being tamed as one. Love changes us, irrevocably, shaping the way we see life and the world around us. When you love someone, even the time you "waste" on them is sacred. And when you love someone, they never truly leave you.

Adapting *Le Petit Prince* into a ballet was a challenge, largely because so much of the story is tied to conversations the Prince has with other characters and to the Pilot's own reflections. Adding narration felt like the best way to make this story accessible for those who are unfamiliar with it. All the dialogue in our staging consists of direct quotations from the book. These selections are deliberate and, I believe, help to create a complete narrative, but we can only put so much narration in a 40-minute ballet! If you haven't read this book, I urge you to go to your local library and check it out. It is beautifully written with charming illustrations, and it can be enjoyed at any age, although if you are a grown-up, it might take you a while to understand it.

When Phaedra first conceived of bringing this beautiful story to life, we were just coming out of the first wave of Covid and lockdown. Our original plan was for a video project that only told part of the story. When in early 2021, it looked like we would be able to perform live in June, we decided to expand this small project into a one-act ballet that covered the whole of *The Little Prince*. The original ballet had a cast of just fifteen dancers. We knew we would be expanding "The Little Prince" this year, but we didn't anticipate by how much. Forty-two dancers will appear onstage today to present this story to you. We are tremendously proud of the passion and effort they have poured into this project.

Enjoy the show!

~Naomi Hanvey <><

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La Boutique Fantasque

(The Magic Toyshop)

Music: Ottorino Respighi after Gioachino Rossini, with additional selections by Josef Bayer

Libretto: André Derain

Choreography: Naomi Hanvey; Can-can dance and Nocturne pas de deux by Kristen Potts

Story:

La Boutique Fantasque in Paris is no ordinary toy store. The dolls in this shop are life-sized and move just like real people! One morning, two wealthy families enter the store. The shopkeeper proudly displays her merchandise – dolls representing different countries, styles of dance, and even animals – but it is the pair of Can-can dancers that captures the hearts of the children. The families agree to split the dolls, each purchasing one. The shopkeeper agrees and the dolls are packaged to be picked up the next day.

That night, the dolls themselves discuss what is to be done about the tragic separation of the Can-can duet. The Columbine doll has a clever idea to keep the dolls together: the Can-can dolls should run away together! The Can-can girl is afraid to break the sacred rules of toy-kind, but her partner declares his love for her and convinces her to escape with him.

The next morning, the two families arrive at the boutique to collect their dolls, but when their boxes are opened, they are empty! A flustered shopkeeper attempts to offer alternatives, but the children refuse to be pacified. An angry mob ensues until the dolls themselves spring into action, surrounding the families and ejecting them from the store! A thoroughly astonished shopkeeper and her assistant marvel at the living dolls. When the Can-can pair themselves surprise everyone by returning to the shop, the shopkeeper apologizes and vows never to separate them again, and everyone in the shop celebrates together.

La Boutique Fantasque

Cast:

Can-can Duet: Taylor Juhnke and Special Guest Artist Colby Deemer

Ballerina Doll: Landry Cummings

German Doll: Johanna Jones

Columbine Doll: Maggie Daley

Flamenco Doll: Gabrielle Carter

Queen of Cards Doll: AOD alumna Tia Herath

Bavarian Doll: Annemarie DeMeyer

Swan Queen Doll: Reagan DeRuyter

Spanish Doll: Sophia Lister

Romani Doll: Izzy Pooley

Irish Doll: Keagan Tully-Ruppert

Slavic Doll: Kinley Harrison

Shopkeeper: Kayla Meckle

Rose Doll: Mary Moore

Assistant: Julia Snodgrass

(in order of appearance):

Pink Family: Phaedra Jarrett with Hazel Anthony, Lyla Dubois, Nora Hawkins, Genevieve Jones, Nautica Kjar, Bridget Smith, Sophie Velazquez

Blue Family: Kaelyn Stewart with Freya Anglin, Lia Blake, Ezralee McArthur, Lily Peterson-Shuts, Yuri Vargas, Anastasiia Yermolovych

Russian Dolls: Rebecca Allen, Abigail Argaw, Geneva Cannon, Landon Gengras, Victoria Gibbs, Maddie Hurst, Nadine Hussey, Evelynne Mason, Harper Ramey, Anna Semco, Mary Taylor Shockley, Sienna Wheatley

Cats: Jana Birch, Ariel Cox, Hailey Fleck, Saoirse Laning, Ileigh Olson, Liana Zahand

Teddy Bears: Adelaide Anderson, Ben Birch, Haylie Rice, Evangeline Serres, Vivienne Serres, Maris Tilton, Rhiannon Wheatley

Cards: Zoya Bhatti, Layni Blake, Leah Bolster, Lincoln Gengras, Savannah Sloane Gengras, Brynlee Lange, Aurora McCallum, Sean O'Callaghan, Athena Root, Parker Simmons

Ballerina Dolls: Ella Peterson-Kinney, River Plummer, Vivienne Serres, Eveliina Van Cotthem, Joy Weaver

Clowns: Varvara Ahisheva, Hailey Anderson, Sierra Anderson, Adelaide Cyr, Thea Ellanson, Hunter Hafsos, Matea Harrison

Tarantella: Mila Bhatti, Abigail Gray, Brigid Sheehan, Maya Shelyukh

Special Guest Artist Colby Deemer



Colby Deemer is an internationally experienced dance educator, program director, and performer with over 15 years of excellence teaching, building programs, and performing across the U.S. and Europe. Grounded in classical ballet, Colby brings a rare blend of technical rigor, pedagogical precision, and creative versatility to every studio and stage.

Colby's leadership extends to program direction and faculty roles at institutions such as Frei Universität, Tanz Planet, and Pro Stage Berlin, where he designed curricula integrating classical ballet principles with contemporary and urban dance. As CEO and Artistic Director of Dance Driven, he leads a national convention and competition company dedicated to expanding performance and education opportunities for young dancers, cultivating programs that challenge dancers artistically and personally while fostering a culture of growth, discipline, and passion. He has also served as Program Director at established studios, where he mentored instructors, refined technique programs, and contributed to significant program growth and competitive success.

Colby Deemer's performance career spans stage, screen, and international touring. He has danced with internationally recognized companies including BodyVox, The Martin Dancers, and Vaga Lume, and has guested with Friedrichstadt-Palast and Ballett Stadt in Berlin. His screen credits include the TV series *Mobbed*, the multi-award-winning short film *Einstein's Dance*, and music videos spanning multiple genres. He has appeared in NBA halftime and pregame shows, the Mountain Dew Tour, and has performed across corporate galas, international conferences, charity showcases, and European tours, bringing versatility and professionalism to every stage.

Production Credits

Summer Concert 2026

Production Coordinator: Kaelyn Stewart

Lighting Design: Tony Kacalek

Sound Editing: Naomi Hanvey

Graphic Design: Melissa Allen, Landry Cummings, Naomi Hanvey

Photography: Melissa Allen Photography

Videography: KDK-1 Digital Media

Costume Coordinators: Stacie Palmtag and Kaitlin Smith

Dressing Room Coordinator: Irina Semco

Transportation Coordinator: Trevor Cummings

Costumes: Cecilia Biosca, Nichole Blake, Thena Brown, Brittany Lister, Samantha Owings

Sets and Props: Maggie Daley, Izzy Pooley, and SYB Company Dancers

A huge thank you to all our parent volunteers!

Spokane Youth Ballet

Director: Naomi Hanvey

Resident Choreographer: Phaedra Jarrett

Board of Directors: Justin Hanvey, Gayle Talbot, Naomi Hanvey, Sara Wright

Social Media Team: Landry Cummings, Maggie Daley Reagan DeRuyter, Mary Moore, Izzy Pooley

Academy of Dance

Director: Naomi Hanvey

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

Office Assistant: Angela Gray

Classroom Assistants: Freya Anglin, Landry Cummings, Annemarie DeMeyer, Ayla Diaz, Kinley Harrison, Mary Moore

Spokane Youth Ballet



Gabrielle Carter



Landry Cummings



Maggie Daley



Tia Herath*



Johanna Jones



Taylor Juhnke



Keagan Tully-Ruppert



Kaelyn Stewart*

Company Dancers



Annemarie DeMeyer



Reagan DeRuyter



Kinley Harrison



Sophia Lister



Mary Moore



Izzy Pooley



Rebekah Welch



Sara Wright*

Supporting SYB

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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