
Monthly Newsletter

CLASSICAL BALLET
OF WNY

October 2024



Halloween Spirit Week!

From Thursday October 24th to Wednesday October 30th, all students can wear their Halloween costumes (and appropriate ballet footwear) to class!

If students choose not to wear a costume, they are welcome to wear fun tights, socks, t-shirts etc.

Students should be able to move freely in what they wear, as we will still be having regular class.

We ask that Halloween costumes are not worn for Nutcracker rehearsals on Sunday, October 27th.

At the end of younger students' classes, we will play some fun games and pass out candy. All candy will be nut-free and we encourage the kids to bring their candy home for parents to check before eating. Please send a small bag with your child for the candy.

Annual Nutcracker Candy Fundraiser



We will once again be hosting our **Annual Nutcracker Candy Fundraiser**. Every student participating in *The Nutcracker* will be required to sell two boxes of candy, with 12 individual boxes in each larger box. Each individual box is \$3, making the total amount per large box \$36. This year's boxes will include Swedish Fish or Sour Patch Kids. You can pick up your box anytime in the office.



Ballet of The Month: Swan Lake

Prologue: Princess Odette is turned into a swan by the sorcerer Von Rothbart.

ACT I: Prince Siegfried celebrates his birthday with the court. Siegfried's mother presents him with a gift, the crossbow of his late father. She decrees that he must choose a royal bride at a palace ball to be held in his honor the following evening. Weighed down by the responsibilities, Siegfried wanders away alone.

ACT II: Alone, Siegfried sees a flock of swans flying high above. To his amazement, one lands and transforms into a beautiful maiden, the Princess Odette. Captivated, he approaches her tentatively with the reassurance that he means her no harm. Odette shares that she is a victim of Von Rothbart's curse that compels her to live as a swan by day; only at night, by the lake created from her mother's tears, is she able to return to human form. The curse can be broken only by one who has never loved before and who pledges an oath of undying love to her.

ACT III: Royal guests who have travelled from distant lands arrive at the Prince's Ball. Siegfried finally arrives and is ordered by his mother to choose a bride from four beautiful princesses. Reluctantly he dances with each in turn but, still entranced by the memory of Odette, refuses to make a choice. Von Rothbart seizes his moment. A fanfare signals the entrance of an uninvited guest, Odile. By Von Rothbart's magic, she appears identical to Odette. Siegfried cannot believe that his beloved has arrived. Siegfried is dazzled by Odile's beauty and chooses her for his bride. Von Rothbart reveals his true identity and takes control of the palace. Grief stricken, Siegfried returns to the lake.

ACT IV: By the lake, the swans anxiously await Odette's return. She appears, heartbroken, and tells them of Siegfried's betrayal. Doomed to remain a swan forever, the only escape is death – to be free from the curse, she must perish in the waves of the lake. Siegfried's desperate search through the storm ends at the lakeside. He begs Odette's forgiveness. With her fate sealed, Odette rushes to the rock and plunges into the lake. Through her sacrifice, the sorcerer's power is destroyed and Siegfried is left to cradle the lifeless body of the Princess.

Source: <https://www.rbo.org.uk/tickets-and-events/swan-lake-2022-digital#synopsis>

Facts:

- The World Premiere of Swan Lake was January 27 1895!
 - It was performed by the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.
 - The original choreographers of Swan Lake are Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, but today, there are many different versions of the production, all with roots of the original choreography.
 - The composer of the score of Swan Lake is Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.
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CBWNY Community

Faculty Spotlight: Alexandra Swonder

Ms Lexi is from Erie PA and graduated from the UB with a BA in Dance and a Masters Degree in Education. She is trained in Modern, Ballet, Tap, and Jazz. Ms. Lexi joined our staff in 2006, and this year teaches Modern, Tap, and Jazz.

She is on the full-time faculty of Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts where she also does work in the fields of Musical Theatre, Stage Management, Lighting Design, and Curriculum Development, in addition to teaching dance.

Most of our full-time students over the past 18 years have had Miss Lexi as their Modern teacher, where she specializes in the styles of Graham, Horton, Taylor, and Limon.

In her personal life, Miss Lexi is passionate about her family, and they are avid bird watchers. She also loves Harry Potter, Star Wars, reading, and gardening. Perfect for this month, Miss Lexi loves Halloween and Fall, and has a passion for photography.



Teaching Advanced Modern



Photography by Ms Lexi

What is one piece of advice you would give to students?

"Don't be afraid to make mistakes or try something new. Trust in the process and be open to what happens along the way."

What is your favorite ballet?

So many! I can't pick one.

Ballet- Chroma, La Fille Mal Gardee, Rubies, Agon

Modern- Promethean Fire by Paul Taylor, Errand Into the Maze by Martha Graham, Mozart Dances by Mark Morris.

A Few Notes To Remember:

- Tuition is due by the 10th of the Month.
- If you are going to be absent for a class or rehearsal, please remember to let us know in advance.

