

Fall Show Update

Ithaca Ballet wrapped up a memorable 2017-2018 season with an unforgettable four act *Swan Lake* on April 28 and 29 at the State Theater.

Swan Lake exceeded all of this director's expectations for a beautiful and very dramatic performance. An outstanding cast was headlined by alumnus Yellie Shustack as Odette/Odile and partner Micah Chermak as Prince Siegfried. We also saw the happy return of Xavier Nunez as the Jester in Act III and in the Act I Pas de Trois partnering company principals Ayla Naghsh and Maria Valencia. Returning Guest alumnus Kevin Olmstead portrayed the evil Von Rothbart and Rachel Myers played the Queen Mother.

And one cannot understate the importance of that outstanding corps de ballet of 20 (in Act IV)- what a gorgeous and impressive sight.

If the two standing ovations were not enough, our lovely Odette/Odile Yellie Shustack, was surprised by her life and dance partner, Micah Chermak with a marriage proposal during the final curtain call. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

On Saturday, September 8th, 2018 twenty two dancers were chosen for the Ithaca Ballet company season 2018-2019 in an open audition at the Ballet Center of Ithaca. The roster includes Principal dancers Ayla Naghsh and Maria Valencia; Soloist Dani Streever, Senior Dancers

Ellie Derry, Martha Erickson, Avery Fowler, Vivian Fowler, Amelia Gair, Anya Korfine, Kara Skrubis, T.Rose Verhagen, Lucy Williams, and Talia Yarbrough; 1st Year Seniors are Nuala Hill, Mia Lashley and Sophie Riedl and finally six new apprentices: Ammon Kellmurray, Sage Korfine, Mia Ku, Lila Mohler, Hannah Shvets and Leticia Smolka. It looks like a promising year!

Looking ahead we have an exciting season of ballets at the State Theater. Please don't miss Lavinia Reid's the *Little Mermaid* on October 20 (3:00 and 7:30 PM) This ballet has only been performed in Ithaca once and truly needs to be seen and experienced. While the title certainly appeals to kids, adults will also enjoy the dramatic story and gorgeous dances. The colorful costumes and sets and an original score composed by the inspired choreographer will provide the viewer an amazing and unique evening in the theater.

Everyone's favorite holiday tradition, the Nutcracker comes on Dec 14 , 15 and 16 and on Saturday, March 30 brings a revival of Lavinia Reid's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the well-known Mendelssohn score. Closing the season will be SpringDance at the Hangar Theater on Sunday, April 28 featuring several ballets choreographed to the music of local pianist and long-time friend of the Ithaca Ballet Laurie Conrad who died in 2016.

-Cindy Reid



Photo by Johann Studier

Ithaca Ballet Company 2018-19

Ballet Guild of Ithaca, Inc.
P.O. Box 4341
Ithaca, NY 14852-4341

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A Swan Lake proposal!



Photos by Johann Studier