

TWIN CITIES BALLET

Coppélia

IN PARIS

May 11 & 12, 2024
AMES CENTER



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WELCOME! Thank you all for joining us for *Coppélia in Paris*, TCB's fun twist on the famous ballet Rom-Com, *Coppélia*. This original version makes the show fresh and engaging for those who are familiar with the original ballet, and more relatable for those who haven't seen it before. TCB's reimagining of the story supports its mission to connect and enrich communities by making ballet approachable, relatable, and fun, through professional and original productions and educational outreach.

In addition to original full-length story ballets such as *Coppélia in Paris*, TCB also creates more abstract and/or contemporary works, and engages in numerous outreach and accessibility initiatives. We enjoy building relationships and collaborating with other organizations, artists, musicians, and schools.

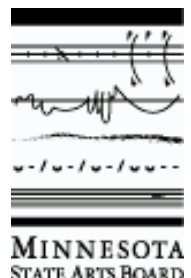
Join us for our 2024/25 season, which includes a mixed-bill performance featuring *Frankenstein* and other tales, our flagship annual performance of *A Minnesota Nutcracker*, which will have its Northrop debut this year, the world premiere of *Romeo & Juliet: A Rock Ballet* to the music of Queen, and one of TCB's most loved original story ballets, *Beauty & The Beast*. Season tickets will be on sale soon!

Please enjoy the show, and thank you for your continued support!

Denise & Rick, Artistic Directors



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Staff & Credits

Artistic Directors

Denise Vogt & Rick Vogt

Choreography

Denise Vogt & Rick Vogt

After Arthur Saint-Léon and Marius Petipa

Music

Léo Delibes

Artistic Staff

Denise Vogt, Rick Vogt, Sophie Addie, Emily McGuire,
Tianna Votiso

Operations and Development

Emily Winn

Rehearsal Facility and Educational Services

Ballet Royale Minnesota

Stage Manager

Rick Vogt

Lighting Design

Karin Olson

Costumes and Wardrobe

Gennevieve Wright

Please Note

Silence all cell phones and electronic devices, and kindly refrain from using or referring to anything that emits light during the show. For the safety and respect of our dancers and your fellow patrons, and to comply with Copyright laws, **all photography and all video, digital, or audio taping of any kind is prohibited.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Story Synopsis

Act I

In the 1920's, the Ballet Royale de Paris prepares for the ballet, *Coppélia*. The company's Ballet Master and a wealthy Impresario introduce an elegant Ballerina, Claudette, a guest star joining the show. Sylvie, the Company's Principal Ballerina, tries to greet Claudette, who ignores her. Francois, the company's Premier Danseur, looks for Sylvie, his girlfriend, and flirts with Claudette, angering Sylvie.

Wealthy Patrons watch the dress rehearsal. They are impressed and present money to the company, a beautiful jewelry box to Sylvie, and a jewel encrusted mask to Claudette. The Ballet Master dismisses everyone for the night and enters a storage room full of props, costumes, and life-size mechanical dolls. He sees Claudette's mask and tutu on a dressmaker's dummy, and pretends the dummy is Claudette and dances to it. Francois frightens the Ballet Master, thinks of Sylvie, and falls asleep.

INTERMISSION

Act II

Sylvie and her friends return to the theater for her jewelry box, and explore the storage room. The friends play with costumes, and wind up the dolls. The Ballet Master returns and chases the girls out. Sylvie, wearing Claudette's tutu and mask, remains behind, standing like a mannequin. The Ballet Master returns, pretends to drink with Francois, and frightens him until he faints. Sylvie wakes Francois, and he thinks she is Claudette. Francois tells her that he loves Sylvie, who then reveals herself and they embrace. Francois hides while Sylvie pretends to be a mechanical doll with the Ballet Master. As she dances, the Ballet Master believes that Sylvie is actually Claudette. Sylvie and Francois reveal they have tricked the Ballet Master, and leave him distraught and alone.

PAUSE

Act III

The next day, Sylvie and Francois apologize to the Ballet Master. The patrons watch the dress rehearsal of *Coppélia's* Third Act. They enjoy the beautiful "Waltz of the Hours," followed by "The Dawn," and finally three dancers perform "Prayer." Children in the company dance and present the Patrons with flowers. Sylvie and Francois, dancing as Swanilda and Franz, perform *Coppélia's* romantic "Wedding Pas de Deux.". Everyone is happy, and all dance and spin to the end.

Cast

Act I

Sylvie/Swanilda: Natalie Rossi

Francois/Franz: Lisandro Neris

Claudette, the Guest Ballerina: Michelle Ludwig

Ballet Master: Tyler Piwowarczyk

The Impresario: Micah Chermak

Sylvie's/Swanilda's Friends: MaryClaire Whitley,
Shannon Moore, Rebecca Ford, Olivia Gorgas,
Joanna Heup, Merrith Skaar

Francois's/Franz's Friends: Isaac José, Thomas Baxter

Company Aspirants: Reagan Mushett, Sophie Freeman

Czardas Dancers: MaryClaire Whitley & Tyler Piwowarczyk
with Hana Childress, Maia Childress, Audrey Degener,
Cecilia Downey, Annika Engebretson, Abbi Rose Jacobson,
Lila Murray, Sophia Tiedje Oglesbee, Yannik Tiedje
Oglesbee, Esther Olson, Agustina Pestel, Maria Vanegas
Understudies: Mia Johnson, Solvei McKie

Wealthy Ballet Patrons: Nancy Aarestad, Alice Anderegg,
Jessica Fortin

Stagehand: Dean Neuburger

Wardrobe Mistress: Tianna Votiso

Young Ballet Students: Fritz Frey with Charlie Blanford,
Cecilia Broberg, Penelope D'Errico, Clara Diamond, Lila
McArthur, Kelsey Schmidt, Olivia Stearns, Elsie Steinbron

Nun: Alice Anderegg

Schoolchildren: Hailey Broberg, Madison Conboy,
Elizabeth Kim, Keira Olson, Myla Robinson

Cast

Act II

Mannequin: Kelly Hylandsson

Golden Dolls: Hannah Hylandsson & Yariel Diaz Rios

Porcelain Dolls: Fiona Berkley & Yannik Tiedje Oglesbee

Squirrel Doll: Eden Misener

Peacock Dolls: Alyssa Smetak, Rebecca Epstein

Hedgehog Doll: Scarlett Mrnak

Knight Dolls: Kaden Addie & Alida Lundberg

Act III

Waltz of the Hours: Hana Childress, Maia Childress, Cecilia Downey, Annika Engebretson, Sophie Freeman, Abbi Rose Jacobson, Mia Johnson, Solvei McKie, Lila Murray, Sophia Tiedje Oglesbee, Esther Olson, Agustina Pestel
Understudy: Hannah Hylandsson

Dawn: Michelle Ludwig

Dawn Attendants: Isabelle Carrion, Miller Conboy, Samantha Dahlen, Jeremiah Dryden, Lauren Dryden, Camille Heath, Willa Kopplin, Layla Paulson, Meadow Paulson, Lily Rubio, Lauren Tran

Bridesmaids: Layla Paulson, Lauren Dryden

Prayer: Shannon Moore with Reagan Mushett, Audrey Degener
Understudy: Lila Murray

Flowergirls: Mirryn Barber, Sunny Beinke, Kalie Ford, Hannah Holleran, Linnea Hylandsson, Sophia Krismanits, Emily Rannow, Lucy Steiner, Lola Teply, Gabriella White

Our Directors

Denise Vogt, Artistic Director. A native of England, Denise danced professionally in Germany with the Kiel Capitol Theater Ballet, Osnabrück Contemporary Dance Theater and Kassel State Theater. She has over 40 years of choreographic experience. Denise has taught in England, Los Angeles, and Germany, and locally at the University of Minnesota, the Classical Ballet Academy of Minnesota, the St. Paul Public School System, Ballet Arts Minnesota and the Minnesota Dance Theatre Company. Denise is Co-Director of Ballet Royale Minnesota, and a founder of TCB.

Rick Vogt, Associate Artistic Director. Rick trained with Jo Savino in St. Paul, San Francisco Ballet, and with Joffrey Ballet and David Howard in New York. He danced professionally as a soloist and principal dancer in Germany with the Kiel Capitol Theater Ballet and Kassel State Theater, in the U.S. with Nevada Dance Theater and Utah Ballet. He also danced with Ballet West, The Washington Ballet (D.C.), Arizona Dance Theater, Jazzin' Dance Co., in the musicals *West Side Story* and *Chicago*, and in the original movie *Footloose*. He is Co-Director of Ballet Royale Minnesota, and a founder of TCB.

Our Dancers

Natalie Rossi ("Sylvie/Swanilda") A Georgia native, this is Natalie's ninth and final season as a principal dancer with TCB. Natalie trained at International City School of Ballet, and was a trainee with Richmond Ballet. She has won bronze and silver medals at Youth America Grand Prix. Natalie has also danced with the Montgomery Ballet and Charleston Ballet Theatre. With TCB, Natalie has danced many lead roles including Cinderella in *Cinderella 1944: A Love Story*, Beauty in *Beauty & The Beast*, the Sugar Plum Fairy in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*, Lucy in *Narnia: The Ballet*, and Giselle in *Giselle*.

Lisandro Neris ("Francois/Franz") Hailing from Puerto Rico, this is Lisandro's first season with TCB. He trained at Escuela Especializada en Ballet Julián E. Blanco, Centro Danza, Feijoo Ballet School, Cuba Ballet, and National Ballet Theater of Puerto Rico. He has danced professionally with the Bahbt Company, and as a trainee with Sarasota Ballet. With TCB, he has danced Cavalier in *A Minnesota Nutcracker* and the Doctor in *The Wall: A Rock Ballet*.

Michelle Ludwig ("Claudette, Dawn") Michelle has danced with TCB since 2020, and in 2013/14. Roles with TCB include Glinda in *The Ruby*

Slippers: A Wizard of Oz Ballet, Snow Queen and Sugarplum Fairy in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*, and Beauty in *Beauty & the Beast*. Michelle has also danced locally with St. Paul Ballet and Ballet Co. Laboratory. Michelle has B.A.s from University of St. Thomas in K-12 education and Spanish, and a dance minor from Macalester College.

Tyler Piwowarczyk (“Ballet Master”) This is Tyler’s third season with TCB. A California native, Tyler’s training includes the University of Utah, Texas Ballet Theater, Ballet West, and Oklahoma City Ballet. He has danced with Utah Ballet, Minnesota Ballet in Duluth, Contemporary West Dance Theatre in Las Vegas and Northern Plains Dance. With TCB, Tyler has danced the lead roles of Pink in *The Wall: A Rock Ballet*, Albrecht in *Giselle*, and Cavalier in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*. Tyler has a BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah.

Micah Chermak (“The Impresario”) Micah returns to TCB as a Guest Artist, after having been a member of the company from 2017–2021, and in 2013–14. With TCB he has danced the lead roles of Nutcracker in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*, the Doctor in *The Wall: A Rock Ballet*, and both Mr. Tumnus and Mr. Beaver in TCB’s original *Narnia: The Ballet*.

Shannon Moore (“Sylvie/Swanilda’s Friend, Prayer”) Originally from Chaska, MN, Shannon is a Ballet Royale Minnesota alum, and was an apprentice with TCB before dancing as a trainee with Ballet West in Salt Lake City. With TCB, she has performed the roles of Clara and Cascading Waters Lead in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*. This is her first season as a professional company dancer with TCB.

MaryClaire Whitley (“Sylvie/Swanilda’s Friend, Czardas Lead”) MaryClaire is from Charleston, SC. She trained with Charleston City Ballet, South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts, and as a trainee with Ballet West. With TCB, she has performed the roles of Snow Queen in *A Minnesota Nutcracker* and The Wife in *The Wall: A Rock Ballet*. She is pursuing her BFA in Dance from University of Utah. This is her first season with TCB.

Isaac José (“Francois/Franz’s Friend”) This is Isaac’s second season with TCB. Born in Puerto Rico, Isaac trained at Dance and Arts Master, Escuela de Danza 21, Centro Danza, and represented Puerto Rico at the International Cheer Union and at the U.S. All Star Federation. He has danced professionally with Ballets de San Juan and Atlantic City Ballet. With TCB, he has danced Drosselmeyer and Snow King in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*. Isaac has a BA in dance from Sagrado Corazon University.

Thomas Baxter (“Francois/Franz’s Friend”) This is Thomas’s first season with TCB. Born and raised in Northern California, Thomas trained at New Ballet School in San José, and was later promoted into New Ballet’s professional company. With TCB he has performed the roles of Snow King and Cascading Waters Lead in *A Minnesota Nutcracker*.

Twin Cities Ballet Apprentices: Rebecca Ford, Olivia Gorgas, Joanna Heup, Merrith Skaar, Katelyn Yankovich

Special Thanks

Twin Cities Ballet would like to express its sincere gratitude to:

- All of our 2023–24 Sponsors
- Twin Cities Ballet’s Board of Directors for their countless hours to build the foundation and growth of this non-profit organization for the arts
- Twin Cities Ballet’s Artistic Staff for their patience and dedication to this production.
- Ballet Royale Minnesota for providing a home, studios, education services and storage space
- The “Friends of the Ballet” Committee Leads: Emily McGuire (Volunteer Coordinator), Gennevieve Wright (Costume/Wardrobe), Mandi Berkley (Hair & Makeup), Emily Winn (Props), Melissa Murray & Melissa White (Boutique Sales), Katie Johnson (Girl Scouts Liaison), and Tianna Votiso (Event Coordinator) whose energy, commitment, expertise and tireless dedication to Twin Cities Ballet are helping make this organization one of Minnesota’s foremost ballet companies.
- All the “Friends of the Ballet” and parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and volunteers who give up their nights and weekends to sew, glue, prepare flowers, organize, security lists, type, and build and fix props.
- St. Croix Ballet, for lending us the Act III Bell
- The Ames Center Staff and Tech Crew
- Girl Scouts Council and Flowerama of Apple Valley for their yearly support.
- Emily Winn, Emily McGuire and Tianna Votiso for their administrative support.
- **And of course, the Dancers and our Audience, for whom Twin Cities Ballet exists!**

2023/24 Sponsors

Twin Cities Ballet is so grateful for our corporate sponsors and individual donors, without whom none of this would be possible. Our complete list of donors can be viewed on our website. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Impresario

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Dawn & Michael DeBenedictis
Maureen & Trevor Haworth
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Thomas
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McCartney

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Frankenstein

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