

PLAYBILL

THE UNITED EUROPEAN BALLET COMPANY

CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE NUTCRACKER



A HOLIDAY TRADITION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

A MESSAGE FROM

CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



While we are delighted to celebrate another exciting chapter for Classical Arts Entertainment, we are proud to announce our upcoming National Tour for the 2026/2027 season, bringing world-class ballet to audiences across the United States and Canada.

We're deeply grateful to our audiences for their continued support and love throughout the years. Because of you, we're able to expand our reach and bring the beauty of classical ballet to new cities and communities each season.

Looking ahead, we're also excited to share that a new production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is currently in development and planned for the 2027/2028 touring season. This vibrant and family-friendly ballet will feature new sets, beautiful costumes, and a fresh artistic vision, continuing our commitment to creating unforgettable theatrical experiences.

Our mission remains the same: to preserve the magic and majesty of the classical repertoire while showcasing the extraordinary talent of our international company of dancers. Bringing together artists from across Europe and beyond, we're proud to present performances that reflect both tradition and innovation.

Even during challenging times around the world, we continue to stand by our belief that the show must go on. Through passion, dedication, and artistry, our performers bring each production to life on stage, creating powerful and inspiring moments for audiences everywhere.

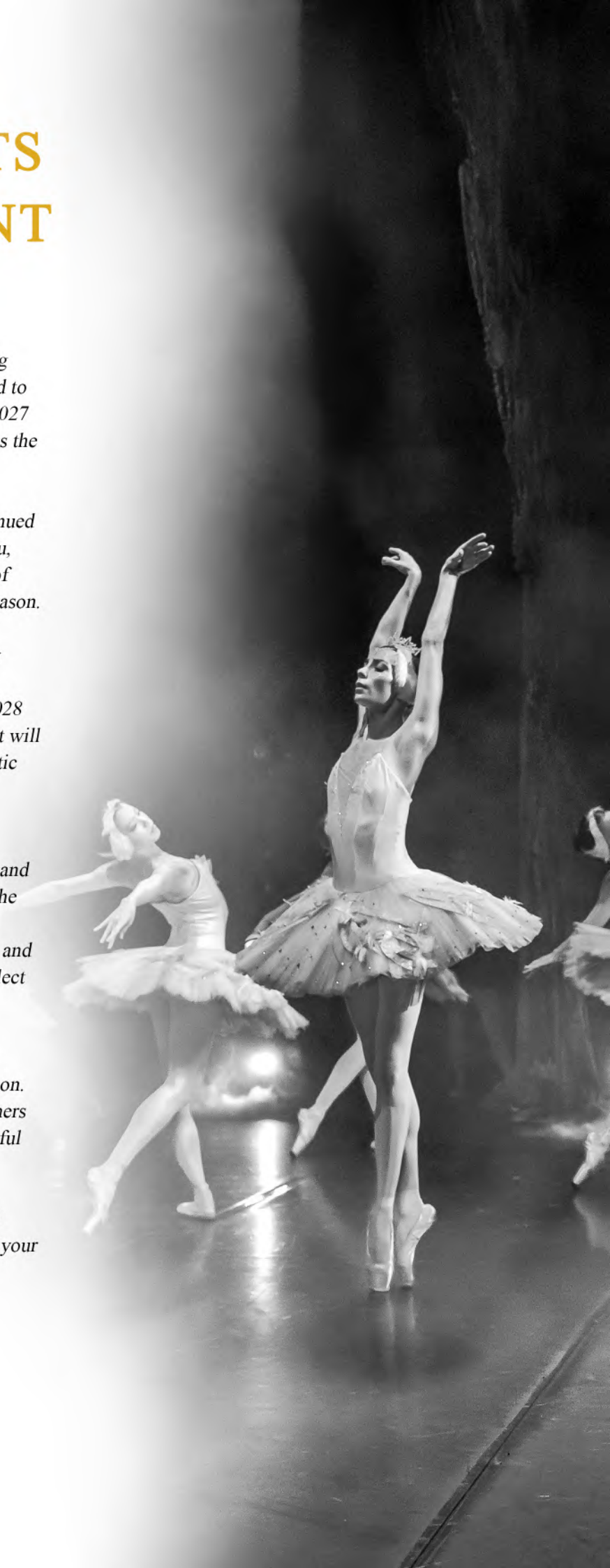
We look forward to welcoming you to the theater and sharing these unforgettable experiences with you and your loved ones.

Respectfully,

Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc.

Michael Art

Michael Art



ABOUT THE SHOW

THE NUTCRACKER

A Holiday Tradition - Reinvented.

Celebrate the season with The Nutcracker, a ballet that brings joy, wonder, and imagination to life for audiences of all ages.

This dazzling production features all-new, hand-painted sets and over 200 exquisite costumes.

Tchaikovsky's beloved score is performed alongside iconic choreography - including «Waltz of the Snowflakes», «Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy», and "Waltz of the Flowers".

With a cast of world-renowned ballet artists from 12 countries, this Nutcracker is more than a performance - it's a celebration of global talent and timeless holiday magic.



MUSIC:
PYOTR TCHAIKOVSKY



CHOREOGRAPHY:
MARIUS PETIPA
MICHAEL ART



**BALLET IN TWO ACTS
WITH ONE INTERMISSION**



FAMILY-FRIENDLY -
suitable for ages 5 and up



FOX NEWS:

“The Nutcracker once again dazzles - still the best production I've seen of this ballet thus far.”

“The updated sets and costumes transformed the experience - especially the new design of the Rat King and the Nutcracker mask.”

“The dancing was ‘on point’ - you simply have to applaud everyone on stage for pure commitment alone.”

ACT 1
50-minute



INTERMISSION
20-minute



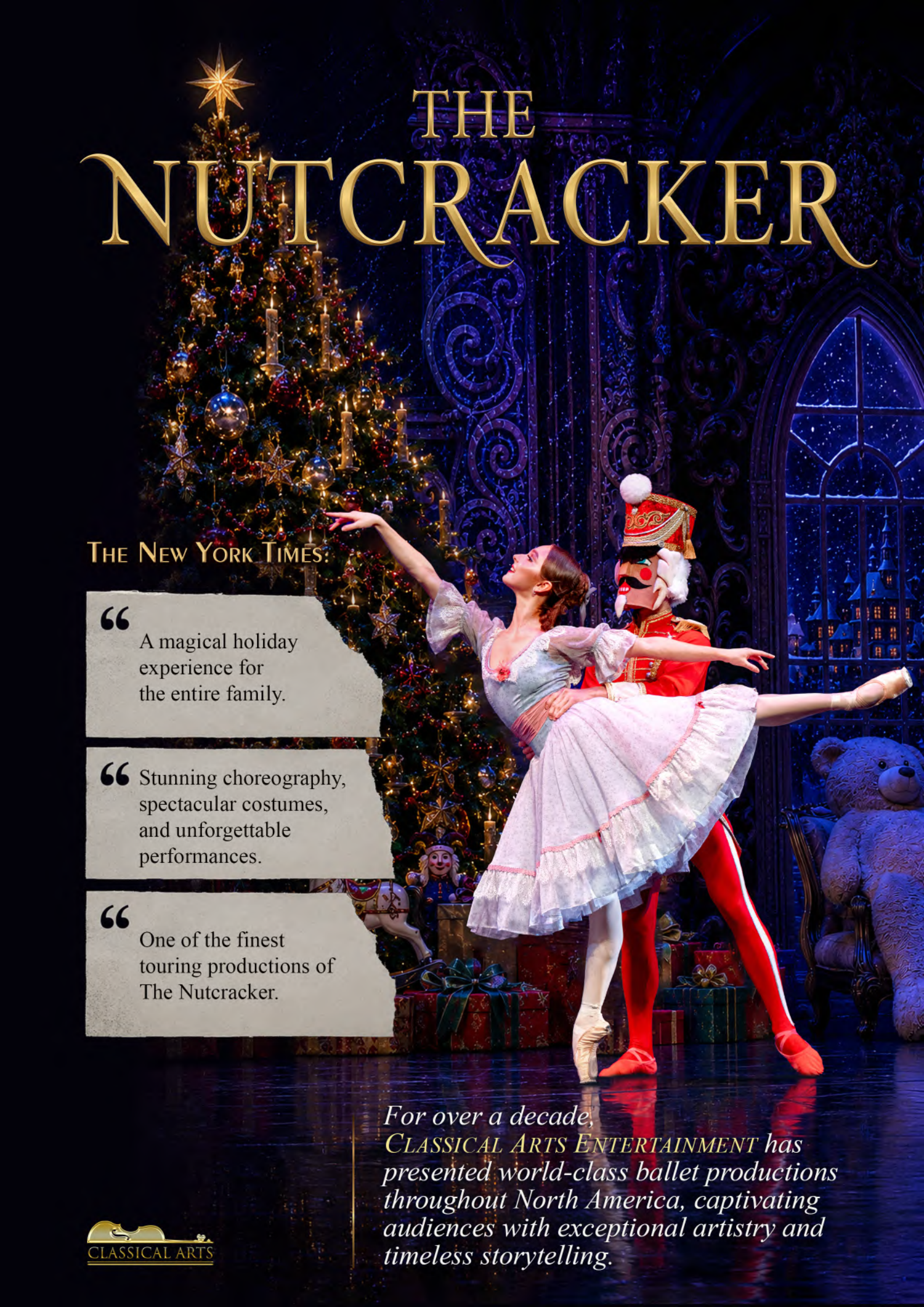
ACT 2
50-minute



**CLASSICAL ARTS
ENTERTAINMENT**

With more than 25 years of experience presenting internationally acclaimed productions, Classical Arts Entertainment is proud to share this artistic journey with communities across North America.

THE NUTCRACKER



THE NEW YORK TIMES:

“

A magical holiday experience for the entire family.

“

Stunning choreography, spectacular costumes, and unforgettable performances.

“

One of the finest touring productions of The Nutcracker.

For over a decade, CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT has presented world-class ballet productions throughout North America, captivating audiences with exceptional artistry and timeless storytelling.

Synopsis

ACT I

PROLOGUE

The action takes place in an old German town at the start of the 19th century. Night is falling, and it is Christmas Eve. The streets are bustling and festive. Among the invited guests to see the Christmas tree at the large, brightly lit house of Herr Stahlbaum is Drosselmeyer, an eccentric inventor and toy maker beloved by children.

SCENE 1

The drawing room in Herr Stahlbaum's house is beautifully decorated. The guests assemble, and Drosselmeyer enters carrying presents. The party is ready to start. The children play and dance, while the Christmas tree glows brightly, marking the start of the festivities.

Drosselmeyer performs magic tricks, entertains the guests and makes clockwork toys, including a Harlequine, a kissy doll, and a Moor, dance for the children. In the end Drosselmeyer introduces to children the Nutcracker, Clara's absolute favorite. Clara begins to dance with the Nutcracker, but Clara's brother, Franz, in a playful mood, breaks the Nutcracker.

Drosselmeyer mends it, and the Nutcracker once again dances with Clara. It is late, and the guests must depart. The party ends with some dances. Clara says goodnight to the Nutcracker, and the candles on the tree are extinguished. Clara's nanny takes her to bed.

SCENE 2

Clara goes to bed and falls asleep. She dreams that the dolls come to life and the entire world transforms: objects lose their familiar shapes, and the Christmas tree grows. She dreams that mice have taken over the drawing room, led by the Mouse King. The Nutcracker leads the tin soldiers in the attack. Clara follows him.

Overcoming her fear, she throws her slipper at the Mouse King at a decisive point in the battle, thus saving the Nutcracker. The Mouse King is defeated and disappears along with his troops.

Miraculously, the Nutcracker transforms into a handsome Prince, who takes Clara to a wondrous fairy-tale land. The room transforms into a winter forest. Snow begins to fall, and snowflakes dance in a flurry, creating glittering snowdrifts.





ACT II

CHRISTMAS. WONDER. JOY.

SCENE 3

Clara and the Nutcracker-Prince travel to an enchanted kingdom, Candy Land. In their honor, a celebration begins, and they are greeted by lively dolls from various corners of the world who perform their dances: Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, Slavik, and French dolls dance before them. Clara and the Nutcracker are delighted. They dance and celebrate with the others.

SCENE 4

The magical night, the last night of Clara's childhood, draws to a close. Clara is asleep in bed. Morning is approaching, and her magical dream is over. Clara awakens.

EPILOGUE

Awakening in her room, Clara finds her beloved Nutcracker doll and realizes that it was all a wonderful dream...

"A Timeless Classic That Continues to Inspire Generations With the Magic of Christmas."



ALL-NEW PRODUCTION

Hand-painted sets
and over 200 exquisite
costumes.



WORLD-CLASS CAST

Featuring renowned
ballet artists from
12 countries.



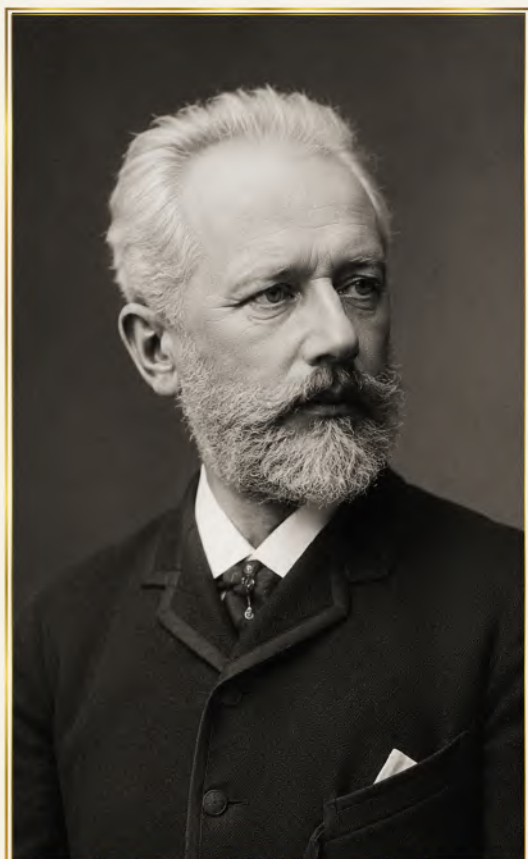
A HOLIDAY TRADITION

Creating cherished
memories for audiences
of all ages.



PYOTR I. TCHAIKOVSKY

1840 - 1893



MUSIC IS
THE EMOTIONAL SHORTHAND
OF HUMANITY



Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky was the author of some of the most popular themes in all of classical music. He founded no school, struck out no new paths or compositional methods, and sought few innovations in his works. Yet the power of his best music elevates it to classic status. It was Tchaikovsky's unique melodic charm that could, whether in his Piano Concerto No. 1 or in his ballet *The Nutcracker* or in his tragic last symphony, make the music sound familiar on first hearing.

Tchaikovsky was born into a family of five brothers and one sister. He began taking piano lessons at age four and showed remarkable talent, eventually surpassing his own teacher's abilities. By age nine, he exhibited severe nervous problems, not least because of his overly sensitive nature. The following year, he was sent to St. Petersburg to study at the School of Jurisprudence. The loss of his mother in 1854 dealt a crushing blow to the young Tchaikovsky. In 1859, he took a position in the Ministry of Justice, but longed for a career in music, attending concerts and operas at every opportunity. He finally began study in harmony with Zarembo in 1861, and enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory the following year, eventually studying composition with Anton Rubinstein.

In 1866, the composer relocated to Moscow, accepting a professorship of harmony at the new

conservatory, and shortly afterward turned out his First Symphony, suffering, however, a nervous breakdown during its composition. His opera *The Voyevoda* came in 1867-1868 and he began another, *The Oprichnik*, in 1870, completing it two years later.

In 1869 Tchaikovsky entered into a working relationship with composer Mily Balakirev, leader of *The Five*; the result was Tchaikovsky's first recognized masterpiece, the fantasyoverture *Romeo and Juliet*. Other works were appearing during this time, as well, including the First String Quartet (1871), the Second Symphony (1873), and the ballet *Swan Lake* (1875).

In 1876, Tchaikovsky traveled to Paris with his brother, Modest, and then visited Bayreuth, where he met Liszt. By 1877, Tchaikovsky was an established composer. This was the year of *Swan Lake*'s premiere and the time he began work on the Fourth Symphony (1877-1878). The period of subsidy by Mme von Meck was abundantly productive for Tchaikovsky with a spate of outstanding compositions, including the *Serenade for Strings* (1881), *1812 Overture* (1882), and the Fifth Symphony (1888). In both 1888 and 1889, Tchaikovsky went on European tours as a conductor, meeting Brahms, Grieg, Dvřak, Gounod, and other notable musical figures. *Sleeping Beauty* was premiered in 1890, and *The Nutcracker* in 1892, both with success.



— 1875 —
SWAN LAKE

A timeless tale
of love and magic.



— 1890 —
SLEEPING BEAUTY

A world of
fairy tales and
grandeur.



— 1892 —
THE NUTCRACKER

A holiday classic
filled with wonder
and joy.



— 1893 —
SYMPHONY NO. 6

A profound and
haunting farewell.

DID YOU KNOW?

Timeless music, unforgettable characters, and a world of wonder — The Nutcracker is more than a performance. It's pure magic.



01

ORIGINS IN LITERATURE:

The Nutcracker ballet is based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 story «The Nutcracker and the Mouse King.» Alexandre Dumas's adaptation of Hoffmann's tale, which softened some of its darker elements, served as the direct inspiration for the ballet.

02

DEBUT PERFORMANCE:

The Nutcracker premiered on December 18, 1892, at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The original performance was not well received by critics, but the ballet gradually gained popularity.

03

TCHAIKOVSKY'S RELUCTANCE:

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the composer of The Nutcracker, was initially hesitant about the project. He found the story trivial compared to his other works, but he was eventually persuaded and went on to create one of the most beloved scores in classical music.

04

ICONIC DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY:

The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy is famous for its use of the celesta, a relatively new instrument at the time. Tchaikovsky discovered the celesta in Paris and was enchanted by its ethereal sound, which he felt was perfect for the fairy character.

05

WALT DISNEY'S FANTASIA:

Portions of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite were featured in Disney's 1940 film «Fantasia», which helped introduce the music to a broader audience.



BY THE NUMBERS



1892

Year the ballet was composed



1892

Year of the iconic Petipa staging



~32

Dancers in the corps de ballet



~2H45M

Total runtime of the ballet



>100

Countries where it is performed

“

A ballet of magic, wonder, and holiday tradition - The Nutcracker continues to enchant audiences around the world.

”

ABOUT US

THE ART. THE LEGACY. THE MAGIC.



20+ YEARS
of bringing world-class
ballet to North America



100,000+
performances
across the United States
and Canada



**STANDING OVATIONS.
SEASON AFTER SEASON.**
The admiration of
ballet lovers nationwide.

**CLASSICAL
ARTS
ENTERTAINMENT**

*Bringing timeless ballet to audiences
across North America.*

ABOUT US



WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTIONS

We unite the world's most powerful ballet companies and celebrated star dancers, from renowned international ensembles to distinguished State Theatres.



EXCELLENCE ON STAGE

We offer audiences a rare opportunity to experience classical ballet at its highest artistic level, presented with elegance, scale, and uncompromising quality.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

Through partnerships with ballet students and local schools, we inspire young artists and communities to connect with the beauty, discipline, and inspiration of ballet.



OUR MISSION

To create unforgettable ballet experiences and bring the magic of this timeless art form to audiences across North America, honoring tradition and inspiring new generations.



LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc. works hand in hand to bring the world's strongest ballet companies to audiences across the United States and Canada. Every year, our productions fill theaters to capacity, earning standing ovations and heartfelt appreciation in every city we visit.

This season, we are proud to present an extraordinary cast, uniting artists from around the world - with Principal Dancers from Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan leading the way.

PRINCIPAL DANCERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

With unmatched dedication to their craft, these world-class dancers bring to life the timeless masterpieces of ***Swan Lake***, ***The Nutcracker***, ***The Sleeping Beauty***, and ***Snow White*** and the ***Seven Dwarfs***.

Their artistry combines impeccable technique, emotional depth, and cultural richness - creating a breathtaking experience that unites generations of ballet lovers and introduces new audiences to the beauty of this art form.

We cannot wait to share this season's journey with you and to welcome our beloved audiences back into the magic of classical ballet.

UNITING TALENT FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Spain • Italy • United Kingdom • United States • Moldova • Romania • Kyrgyzstan • Japan
Turkey • Armenia • Brazil • Poland • Tajikistan • Belarus • and beyond



ABOUT US

IMPRESARIO
MICHAEL L ART

FOUNDER & PRODUCER
CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

Michael Art is the founder and producer of Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc. and We Dance Production, Inc. A graduate of the Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts (1991), he has dedicated his career to promoting ballet and performing arts internationally.

In 2014, together with his wife Lina, he founded Classical Arts Entertainment with the mission of bringing world-class dance productions to audiences across the globe. Under his leadership, the company has presented acclaimed classical ballets including Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, and Carmen.

The organization collaborates with leading ballet theaters, choreographers, and international artists, creating productions that combine artistic excellence with cultural exchange. Through extensive international touring, their performances have reached millions of viewers worldwide. Known for his artistic vision and commitment to excellence, Michael Art has helped create opportunities for dancers and creative teams from different countries to perform on international stages. His productions are recognized for their high artistic standards, elegant presentation, and dedication to preserving the traditions of classical ballet while introducing contemporary creative approaches.

Michael Art is recognized for his contribution to the development and promotion of classical dance, supporting both established performers and emerging talent while continuing to expand the global presence of ballet arts.

Michael L. Art



Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc. have brought world-class ballet to audiences across the United States and Canada for over a decade, producing more than 100,000 performances.

Each season, our productions fill theaters to capacity, earning standing ovations and the admiration of ballet lovers nationwide.

This season, we are proud to present an extraordinary cast, uniting artists from around the world - with Principal Dancers from Ukraine and Kazakhstan



10+

YEARS OF

EXCELLENCE



20M+

AUDIENCES

WORLDWIDE



10,000+

CITIES

VISITED

PRINCIPAL DANCER



**SERGEI
ZDANSCHI**

Trained at the National College of Choreography in Chişinău under renowned ballet teacher Andrey Litvinov, Sergei Zdanschi began his professional career with the National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Moldova while still a student, quickly gaining recognition for his strong technique and expressive stage presence.

He later performed as a Leading Ballet Soloist in Dnipro, Ukraine, where he debuted as Prince Siegfried in Swan Lake, establishing himself as a promising classical dancer. Sergei has toured internationally across Europe and Asia, appearing on stages in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, and China. His repertoire includes leading roles in Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, The Sleeping Beauty, and other classical ballets.

Today, Sergei Zdanschi performs as a Principal Dancer with Classical Arts Entertainment.



**ILONA
BAITLER**

Trained at the Dnepropetrovsk Theater and Art College and the Dnepropetrovsk School of Classical Dance, Ilona Baitler quickly gained recognition for her strong classical technique, musicality, and expressive stage presence.

In 2020, she joined Classical Arts Entertainment, becoming one of the company's leading artists and performing extensively across Europe, including France, Germany, Switzerland, and Poland. Her repertoire includes principal and soloist roles such as Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella in Cinderella, Clara in The Nutcracker, Kitri in Don Quixote, and Mavka in The Forest Song.

Ilona is also a prize winner of several international ballet competitions in Ukraine. Today, she performs internationally as a Principal Dancer, captivating audiences with her elegance, refined technique, and dramatic interpretation of classical roles.



**KANAT
NADURBEK**

Trained at the Bishkek Choreographic School under renowned teacher Uran Sarbagyshev, Kanat Nadyrbek Uulu began his professional career with the Kyrgyz National Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Abdylas Malydybaev.

Early in his career, he toured extensively across Europe and Asia, performing in nearly forty countries, and later worked with Universal Ballet in Seoul, South Korea.

In 2016, Kanat joined the Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theatre in Vladivostok as a soloist and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2018, becoming the first Kyrgyz dancer in history to achieve this rank at the Mariinsky Theatre.

His repertoire includes leading roles in Swan Lake, Giselle, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, and Le Corsaire. In 2019, he was awarded the honorary title of Honored Artist of the Kyrgyz Republic.



**RAVSHAN KYZY
SUIUMKAN**

Ravshan Kyzy Suiumkan is an internationally active classical ballet dancer recognized for her expressive stage presence, refined technique, and versatility across both lyrical and virtuoso repertoire.

She received her professional ballet training in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, specializing in classical technique, pointe work, and pas de deux. Following her graduation, she performed internationally with touring ballet companies across Europe and the United Kingdom.

Her repertoire includes principal roles in Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, and Cinderella.

Ravshan has appeared in numerous international ballet productions and festivals and is the recipient of awards from competitions in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Germany, and France. Today, she continues to perform internationally as a principal and soloist artist.



**DIANA
STETSENKO**

Beginning her ballet training at the age of seven in Kyiv, the Ukrainian ballerina later graduated from the Kyiv State Choreographic School in 2019 and began her professional career with the Lviv National Opera before joining the National Opera of Ukraine.

In 2022, she received a contract with Semperoper Dresden in Germany, and since 2023 has performed as a leading dancer with the Grand Kyiv Ballet. In 2025, she joined the ballet troupe of Classical Arts Entertainment.

A finalist and prizewinner of international ballet competitions in Kyiv, she has toured extensively across Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, performing a wide range of classical repertoire. Her repertoire includes leading and soloist roles in Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, Don Quixote, The Snow Queen, and Forest Song, demonstrating both lyrical artistry and strong classical technique.

FIRST SOLOISTS



**YUMEKO
IDE**



**LIBBY
RIMMER**



**VYALETA
HERASIMOVICH**



**EDGAR
SAMVELYAN**



**FINLAY
WATSON**



**MARIIA
VASIUK**

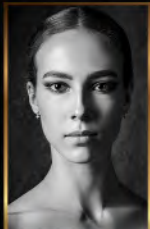


**ANNA
DE MURI**



**TAISIA
SHEVCHENKO**

CORPS DE BALLET



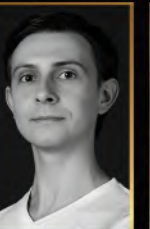
**MILENA
BROWN**



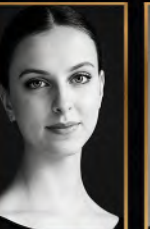
**IVAN
KOVALENKO**



**KELEMEDENOVA
AIGERIM**



**STANISLAV
VIDLOHA**



**LAYLA
PROIETTI BOVI**



**ZHAKSHYLYK
DAMIRBEKO**



**KSENIIA
KHAVRENKO**



**ZLATA
MINCHINA**



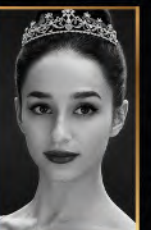
**SHERZAT
SATAROV**



**ERLAN
JLDOSHEBEKO**



**SHYNGYS
TOLEGEN**



**KRUPSHCHENOK
SOFIIA**



**ALEKSANDR
ARTEMINKOV**



**ANASTASIA
BUNDINA**



**ZHAKSHYLYK
DAMIRBEKOV**



**VALERIA
PARTOLINA**



**ZHAKSHYLYK
DAMIRBEKOV**



**DARIA
FILONENKO**

I **LOVE** TO DANCE PROGRAM



SHARING THE STAGE. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

Since 2018 until present time, The United European Ballet Company has been working on engaging the studios all over the country with the **I Love to Dance Program**.

The Program has grown into a 30+ Partner Studios that perform throughout the East Coast Tour every year. Classical Arts Entertainment casts student dancers ages 5-18 in ancillary roles performing alongside the professional ballet dancers. A wide variety of parts for young dancers is offered during the Grand National Tour 2026/2027, in such repertoire, as: Classical arts entertainment I Love to Dance Program Director and Producer, Michael Art, plays a central role in supporting and developing young dancers who share the stage with professional artists in productions including **The Nutcracker**, **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**, **Cinderella**, **Sleeping Beauty**, and **Swan Lake**.

Under his direction and creative leadership, **I Love to Dance** partner studios audition and rehearse thousands of local ballet students in tour cities each season. During the 2026 to 2027 Winter and Spring tours across the United States, more than 5000 students are expected to participate, gaining meaningful stage experience and professional-level preparation.

The **I Love to Dance** program is designed to prepare young performers for confident, high-quality appearances alongside an international company of professional ballet artists, offering practical production experience, artistic growth, and memorable opportunities on major theater stages.

WHAT STUDENTS GAIN



PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Appear on professional stages in full-scale productions.



ARTISTIC GROWTH

Develop technique, confidence, and stage presence.



PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Work alongside international ballet artists and directors.



LASTING MEMORIES

Build friendships and create unforgettable experiences.



GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Become part of an international family united by the joy of dance.



30+
PARTNER STUDIOS



5000+
YOUNG DANCERS



2019
PROGRAM FOUNDED



2026-2027
GRAND NATIONAL TOUR



OUR MISSION

To nurture the next generation of dancers by creating inspiring opportunities that build confidence, celebrate artistry, and connect young performers with the magic of the stage.

“ Every child deserves the chance to feel like a professional artist. ”

SHOP THE CLASSICAL ARTS COLLECTION

• TAKE HOME THE MAGIC! •

If you enjoyed the performance and would like to support our mission, we invite you to explore our exclusive merchandise collection, available in the Lobby. From elegant keepsakes to practical gifts-like dance-themed T-shirts, water bottles, bracelets, jewelry, and binoculars-every purchase helps us bring world-class ballet to communities across North America and engage the next generation of dancers from top ballet schools in our productions.

Enhance your experience and capture the moment: stop by for a photo with a professional ballerina from Classic Arts Entertainment in front of our stunning scenic backdrop. Take home a printed keepsake and lasting memories of this special evening.



• FEATURED COLLECTION •



DANCE-THEMED
T-SHIRTS



WATER
BOTTLES



BRACELETS &
JEWELRY



BINOCULARS



EXCLUSIVE
KEEPSAKES



CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Meet a Professional Ballerina

Enhance your experience and capture the moment: stop by for a photo with a professional ballerina from Classic Arts Entertainment in front of our stunning scenic backdrop.

Take home a printed keepsake and lasting memories of this special evening.

THE MAGIC CONTINUES...

CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT



MEET OUR CREW



YELIZAVETA KOPNINA
Lighting Designer



ANDREII MOISEI
Sound and Technical Specialist



TATIANA ARMSTRONG
Makeup Specialist



VITALII ZAHYNAILO
Art Photographer of the Ballet Tour



OLGA KHALKEVICH
Official Photographer of the Ballet Tour



VASILY NEMCHINOV
Stage Manager



HERSHEL WESTON
Technical Director



TO BECOME A HOST STUDIO, CONTACT US NOW!



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INSTAGRAM