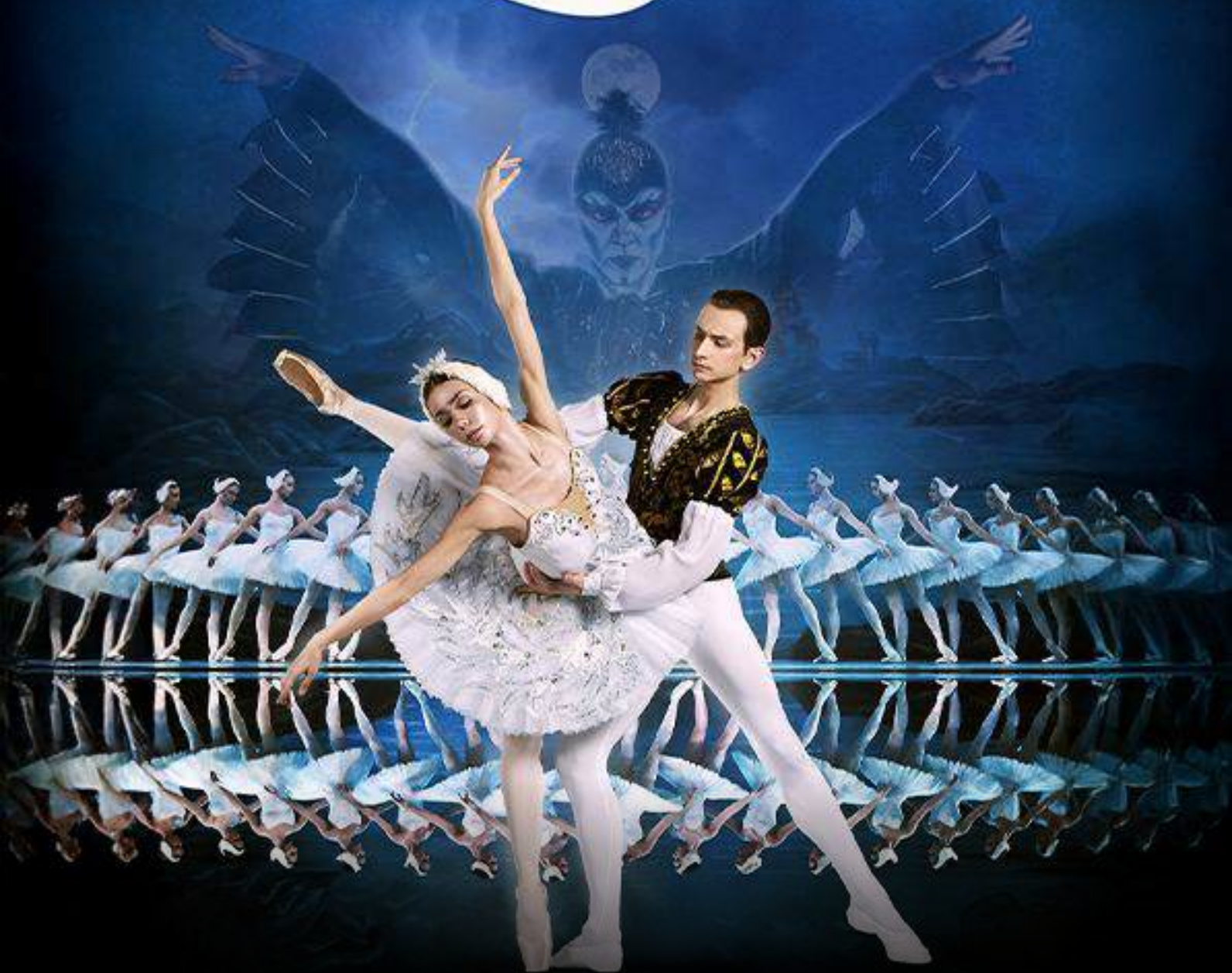


CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# SWAN LAKE



- INTERNATIONAL BALLET STARS -



# About show

**Music** Pyotr Tchaikovsky  
**Choreography** Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

**Act 1** 62-minute  
**Intermission** 20-minute  
**Act 2** 46-minute

Timeless. Majestic. Unforgettable.

Step into the world of Swan Lake – a story of love, magic, and triumph, brought to life through the powerful choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic score.

This production features all-new, hand-painted sets and over 200 custom-designed scenery elements, transforming the stage into a dreamlike landscape. With world-renown ballet artists from Italy, Spain, Georgia, Ireland, Turkey, Brazil, Great Britain, Ukraine, Japan, Tajikistan, Moldova, and Kazakhstan, this performance embodies the spirit of international artistry and excellence.

Every scene – from the poetic “Dance of the Little Swans” to Odile’s dazzling 32 fouetté turns – is a celebration of classical ballet in its most pure and expressive form.

Ballet in Two Acts with one intermission

Family-friendly – suitable for ages 3 and up



## The Daily Texan:

“The magic of Swan Lake transcends generations.”

“Odile perfectly executed the iconic 32 fouetté turns – one of the most anticipated and difficult scenes.”

“Swan Lake continues to inspire dancers and patrons of the arts to appreciate a performance that never loses its sparkle.”

With more than 10 years of experience presenting internationally acclaimed productions, Classical Arts Entertainment is proud to share this artistic journey with communities across North America.





# Synopsis



## Prologue

The wicked magician Rothbart has put a curse on the beautiful maiden Odette and her friends, turning the girls into swans during the day – they are only human at night. Only a boundless true love can release them from the curse.

## Scene 1

In the garden in front of the castle, Prince Siegfried celebrates his coming-of-age party. The guests, ladies-in-waiting, and the prince's best friend, Benno, all rejoice. A hilarious Jester entertains everyone by dancing.

The reigning Queen, the mother of the prince, informs everyone that during the next day's ball Siegfried must choose a fiancée. Prince Siegfried is disappointed as he has not met a girl who he could love. It is growing dark. The guests leave the garden. Alone, Siegfried sees a flock of white swans flying high in sky, spurring him to hunt. Taking a crossbow, the prince goes into the forest.

## Scene 2

At the lakeside, Siegfried sees a white swan and draws his bow to shoot. Suddenly the swan transforms into Odette. Her beauty charms the Siegfried. Odette tells the prince of the curse. Siegfried professes his love and vows his devotion. The evil magician sees Odette and Siegfried together and decides to trick the prince into breaking his vows to Odette.

## Act I





# Act II

## Scene 1

The ball has begun, but Siegfried is uninterested in any of the noblewomen dancing there. Baron von Rothbart and his daughter, Odile, arrive. Siegfried thinks Odile looks like Odette, but Benno does not agree. Siegfried asks Odile to dance and, enchanted by her, agrees to marry her. At that moment, Rothbart reveals himself as the evil magician, Odile laughs, and a white swan wearing a crown appears in the window. Siegfried runs out of the castle.

## Scene 2

At the lakeside, Odette tells her friends about Siegfried's betrayal. Their hope to become free is lost forever. The curse of the evil magician has triumphed. The prince searches for Odette to beg for her forgiveness: he was convinced that Odile was actually Odette, and thought he was promising to marry her. Siegfried battles through a terrible storm Rothbart has created; and begins to fight him. Odette protects her beloved Prince from a deathblow, unwittingly breaking the curse with her love. The loving couple gladly meet the rays of the rising sun; Odette and her friends are human again.









# Swan Lake Composer



## Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky

(1840-1893)

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 Zaremba 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 fantasy-overture *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.



## **Swan Lake was the first ballet of Pyotr Tchaikovsky?**

Written in 1876, it's a kaleidoscope of melodies, dancing, and folklore motifs. This is one of the most frequently staged ballets worldwide and paved the way for the legendary *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

## **Swan Lake grew out of a home performance?**

Tchaikovsky's family staged an amateur performance, with the composer himself directing and choreographing. This homegrown fairy tale about a swan evolved into the masterpiece we know today.

# Did you know?

## **Swan Lake became iconic after Tchaikovsky's death?**

In 1895, Marius Petipa's staging at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater became canonical, marking the ascension of Russian ballet to global fame.

## **The Dance of the Little Swans is the most famous dance in the world?**

Even if you've never seen *Swan Lake*, you've likely heard its music and seen excerpts of this iconic dance, a highlight of Russian ballet and a favorite for parodies.





## 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.





# About us

Classical Arts Entertainment has significantly impacted ballet enthusiasts across the United States and Canada with its decade of experience and rich history of over 20,000 shows.

The company's dedication to excellence is commendable, as evidenced by its meticulous approach to performance.

CAEI creates visually stunning productions that enchant and captivate audiences by combining timeless scores, impeccable dancing, hand-painted sets, and exquisite hand-crafted costumes. The choice of timeless scores ensures that the music accompanying the ballets resonates with audiences, evoking emotions and enhancing the overall experience.

Impeccable dancing is a crucial aspect of CAEI's performances. The company's dancers are undoubtedly skilled and trained to execute classical ballet's intricate and demanding choreography. Their talent and dedication bring the movements to life, conveying the grace, precision, and beauty that are trademarks of the art form.

In addition to the dancing, the hand-painted sets contribute to the overall visual splendor of CAEI's productions. These carefully crafted backdrops create immersive environments that transport the audience to different worlds, enhancing the storytelling and adding depth to the performances.

The exquisite hand-crafted costumes further elevate the productions. These meticulously designed and tailored garments enhance the visual appeal and contribute to the dancers' characterization. The costumes are vital in conveying the narrative and improving the aesthetic experience.

Through its attention to detail and commitment to excellence, CAEI brings the magic of classical ballet to life on stage. Its visually stunning productions, combined with the artistry and skill of its dancers, create an enchanting experience for audiences.



# Our Team



## Michael L Art

Founder and Producer of Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc & We Dance Production, Inc

Michael Art, the founder of Classical Arts Entertainment, is a highly accomplished individual in the field of arts and entertainment. He graduated in 1991 from the Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts, which is a prestigious institution known for training specialists in various artistic disciplines such as design, painting, theater arts, graphics, fashion design, and advertising.

In 2014, Michael Art and his wife Lina established Classical Arts Entertainment with the aim of promoting the arts and showcasing talent from around the world. The agency primarily focuses on dance productions and has brought together renowned dance companies from different countries.

Classical Arts Entertainment has presented a wide range of ballet productions to audiences, featuring well-known classics like "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," "Snow White," "Cinderella," "Giselle," and "Carmen," among others. These performances have showcased the mesmerizing talent and artistry of dancers from esteemed companies such as the Perm Opera and Ballet Theater and the Voronezh State Opera and Ballet Theater.

In addition to classical ballets, the agency has also collaborated with accomplished choreographers like Andrei Litvinov and Lyudmila Ivanova to introduce innovative and cutting-edge dance projects to audiences. By nurturing new talent and working with established companies, Classical Arts Entertainment has fostered an environment that promotes creativity and artistic growth.

The agency's success has extended beyond the United States, receiving international acclaim for its carefully crafted performances. Their tours have taken them to over 10,000 cities, and their shows have been watched by more than 20 million viewers worldwide. Through these performances, Classical Arts Entertainment has not only entertained audiences but also facilitated cultural exchanges and inspired people from different backgrounds.

Michael and Lina's unwavering dedication and passion for the arts have played a pivotal role in establishing Classical Arts Entertainment as a respected and renowned arts agency. Their commitment to curating exceptional dance projects has left a lasting impact on the world of performing arts, ensuring their legacy continues to flourish.





## Artem Yachmennikov

Founder and Producer of We Dance Production, Inc., and Artistic Director of Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc. & We Dance Program

Artem Yachmennikov graduated from the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia. He was the first soloist with the world famous Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, a soloist at The Mariinsky Theater (Kirov) in St. Petersburg and a principal dancer at the Dutch National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

During his artistic career, he has danced all the leading roles in works by many of the twentieth century's master choreographers including George Balanchine, Natalia Makarova, Peter Wright, Hans van Manen, Alexei Ratmansk, Rudi van Dantzig, John Neumeier, William Forsythe, Francesco Ventriglia, Patrick de Bana, Aidar Akhmetov, Helgi Tomasson, Ted Brandsen and more.

He partnered with the stars of ballet world including Uliana Lopatkina, Svetlana Zakharova, Anna Tsygankova, Maria Alexandrova, Igone de Jongh, Sofiane Sylve, Tan Yuanyuan, Larisa Leznina, Ilze Liepa, Ylia Makhalina and more. Yachmennikov's repertoire includes numerous main roles in productions of "La Bayadere", "La Sylphide", "Swan Lake", "The Sleeping Beauty", "Giselle", "Romeo & Juliet", "Coppelia", "Chopiniana", "Le Corsaire", "Don Quixote", "Symphony in C", "Serenade", "Steptext", "Sarcasmen", "Adagio Hammerklavier", "Black Cake", "Kammerballett", "Russian Seasons", "The Flames of Paris", "Scheherazade", "The Firebird", "Cleopatra", "Ghost Ball", "Fourteenth", "The Nutcracker".

For his artistic accomplishments, he was invited as the guest of honor to attend the official ceremony with the Queen of Netherlands, Beatrix. Artem has also been invited to perform as guest star at the Italian franchise of Dancing With The Stars. Artem is the Artistic Director of We Dance Program, he is integral to the success of the student dancers who perform beside the pros in the Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Snow White & Swan Lake shows!

While serving as the Founder and Artistic Director of Melbourne City Ballet Theatre, MCBT has produced two major productions The Sleeping Beauty (2018) and Swan Lake (2019) at the Maxwell C King Center for the Performing Arts in collaboration with the National Ballet of Odessa, Ukraine, which included 55 professional dancers from Ukraine, 100 dancers from the community of Melbourne, FL and 50 musicians from the Satellite Symphony Orchestra. In 2021 & 2022 Melbourne City Ballet Theatre has produced such legendary ballets as the Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake and Cinderella at the Maxwell C King Center for the Performing Arts, collaborating with the Classical Arts Entertainment.

MCBT productions have received outstanding reviews described as "the highest quality" "the likes of which are seen in major cities around the world." We have entertained over 6,000 people at the King Center for the Performing Arts alone. Both productions were groundbreaking for Brevard with many historical firsts and included some of the youngest dancers ever to have graced a professional stage seamlessly integrating with the corps de ballet. MCBT has received grant funding from the Brevard Cultural Alliance, The Space Coast Board of Tourism and from the state Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for the powerful vision for dance in Brevard.

As the Artistic Director of We Dance Program, Artem has auditioned over 5000 ballet students in 30+ studios across the United States over the years. Artem now serves as both: The Artistic Director at Classical Arts Entertainment & We Dance Program, and Producer of the North America Tour 2025/2026.

## Ekaterina Vaganova-Yachmennikova

Founder and Producer of We Dance Production, Inc.,  
Producer at Classical Arts Entertainment, Inc. & We Dance Program Coordinator

Ekaterina Vaganova-Yachmennikova graduated from the Moscow University of Culture, specializing in Promotion and Production of Cultural Public Programs. She began developing the We Dance Program in 2021 to include around 25 ballet studios participating in Classical Arts Entertainment productions. Under her leadership, the program has continued to expand, reaching 50 ballet Host Studios across the U.S. and Canada for the 2025–2026 season. This unique program allows ballet students of ages 5+ to perform with the professional ballet companies and gain a one-in-a-lifetime educational and cultural experience.

In 2023, Ekaterina became the co-producer and co-founder of We Dance Production, Inc., alongside Michael Art. They have grown the North America ballet tour from 72 to 150 performances across the United States, creating one of the largest classical ballet tours in North America. As a producer, she has been instrumental across multiple departments — from marketing and strategic planning to production coordination — and is presenting the International Ballet Stars Grand North America Tour 2025–2026, which will feature over 150 performances in the US & Canada.



Ekaterina's lifelong mission has been to popularize dance in all its forms. She began dancing at the age of 2.5 years and devoted 20 years to professional ballroom dance, earning titles such as three-time World Champion, two-time Champion of Russia, five-time Champion of Italy, Champion of Ukraine, and World Cup winner. She has also worked with celebrities as a teacher and choreographer in such TV formats, as Dancing With The Stars in Italy (2012–2017) on RaiUno channel, Dancing With The Stars in Russia (2009), and So You Think You Can Dance Russia (2015–2016) on TNT channel, working with stars like Bobo Vieri, Sergio Assisi, Kirill Pletnev, Valerio Aspromonte, Michele Morrone, Marco Del Vecchio, Bruno Cabrerizo, Anton Panufnik, and others. She was also part of the renowned TV format Midnight Run on Channel One Russia, performing alongside popular singers and presenters Alexey Chumakov and Timur Rodriguez, and hosting celebrities such as Alexey Yagudin, Viktoria Bonya, Dmitry Shepelev, Boris Moiseev, and many others.

As the owner of two dance studios We Dance Academies in Brevard County (2017–2022) with 250+ students, Ekaterina raised Florida and international dance champions and staged professional ballet productions. Ekaterina and Artem Yachmennikov founded and directed Melbourne City Ballet Theatre, producing landmark productions such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Cinderella at the King Center for the Performing Arts, which received widespread acclaim and grant support from the Brevard Cultural Alliance, Space Coast Office of Tourism, and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Fluent in Italian, Spanish, English, Russian, and Ukrainian, Ekaterina continuously advances her expertise, combining her experience as a dance educator and organizer with her work as a visionary producer of world-class cultural events.





# Principal dancers











## Sergei Zdanschi

Principal Dancer

### Biography

Sergei Zdanschi, born on January 11, 2000, in Chisinau, Moldova, has made a name for himself in ballet thanks to his powerful artistry and technical skills. He graduated from the Colegiul Național de Coregrafie in 2019, where he trained under the esteemed Andrey Litvinov, whose guidance helped shape Sergei's unique expression and precision in movement.

His professional career began in 2017 when he joined the ballet troupe at the Chisinau Theater. By 2019, Sergei's remarkable talent earned him the title of Leading Ballet Soloist in Dnipro, Ukraine, where he captivated audiences with his debut as Siegfried in Swan Lake. His performances have since taken him around the globe, with invitations to perform in countries including France, Germany, Spain, China, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland, showcasing his passion and elegance to international audiences.

### Awards

Recognized for his exceptional talent, Sergei has been a laureate of several prestigious ballet competitions:

- Riga Spring – Grand Prix Winner
- Vienna International Competition – 2nd Place
- Romania Crystal Swan – 1st Place
- Italy International Competition – 1st Place

With his refined technique and powerful stage presence, Sergei Zdanschi is a rising star who is celebrated for his deep artistic interpretation and dedication to the craft of ballet. Audiences worldwide eagerly await his next performance as he continues to captivate with each role he takes.



## Ilona Baitler

Principal Dancer

### Biography

Ilona Baitler was born in Ukraine, in the city of Dnipro, on January 27, 2002.

I'm a 4th year student at the Dnepropetrovsk Theater and Art College. Also, this year, I am graduating from the Dnepropetrovsk school of classical dance.

Teacher-Dubrovina E.A.

Since 2020, she has been admitted to the ballet troupe of the Classical Arts Entertainment in the position of the 2nd category.

As a company member and the combined ballet troupes, she was on tour in France, Germany, Switzerland, and Poland.

### Awards

- "Thought -Stream" 2017 (Kiev) 2nd place
- "Thought -Stream" 2018 (Kiev) 2nd place
- Slobozhanske Kolo 2018 (Kharkov) 1st place
- "Best Fest" 2015 (Kharkov) 1st place
- "Ballet Seasons in Odessa" 2021 (Odessa) 1st place



## Oleksii Kniazkov

Principal Dancer

### Biography

Principal dancer of Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after N.V.Lysenko (Ukraine);

Born in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Since childhood, Oleksii had a great passion for dance. He started his dancing path with ballroom dancing. He didn't miss a single class during his studies: "It was unthinkable for me to miss a single class, even when I was sick I could not imagine that I would miss my loved training. No matter how I felt physically I danced! I loved that so much! It was the best medicine for me!"

Education

In 2004-2008 Oleksii studied at the Choreographic School of Vadim Pisarev at the Donetsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after A.Solovyanenko (Ukraine).

In 2013 Oleksii graduated from Kharkiv State Academy of Culture, Contemporary Choreography Department (Ukraine);

Danced with Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after N.V.Lysenko (Ukraine 2013-2022)

United Ukrainian Ballet company (The Netherlands 2022-2024)

Throughout his career, he danced with various projects at hundreds of theater venues in the USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Austria, Germany, Poland, Greece, Spain, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Japan, China, Taiwan, Mexico, etc.

### Awards

- Grand Prix of International Dance Competition Hellas (Greece 2018)
- Best duet of Ukraine award (IBF BalletUA 2021)



## Diana Stetsenko

Principal Dancer

### Biography

Diana Stetsenko was born in Kyiv, Ukraine on April 17, 2001.

She began professionally studying ballet at the age of 7 at the School of Arts in Kyiv. At the age of 12, she entered the Kyiv State Choreographic School and graduated in 2019.

After graduation, she joined the Lviv National Opera. Since 2020, she began working at the National Opera of Ukraine.

In 2022, she received a contract with the Semperoper Dresden (Germany).

Since 2023, she joined the Grand Kyiv Ballet as a leading dancer.

Since 2025, she has been admitted to the ballet troupe of the Classical Arts Entertainment.

Finalist of the international classical and contemporary choreography competition "Mysul-Potok" (Kyiv, 2016) and the Grand Prix Kyiv International Ballet Festival (Kyiv, 2019).

She has toured in such countries as: Germany, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Iceland, Estonia.

Repertoire:

"Forest Song" Mavka

"The Nutcracker" Clara, Chinese doll, Spanish doll

"The Snow Queen" Gerda

"Sleeping Beauty" Aurora

"Swan Lake" Odette, Little swans, Pas de trois, brides

"Don Quixote" Kitri's friends, Cupid, Street dancer

"Giselle" Myrtha, Peasant Pas de deux.



# Soloists



**Kovalenko  
Denis**



**Ide  
Yumeko**



**Yelizarova  
Olena**



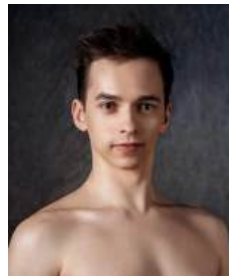
**Zvonov  
Dmytro**



**Nikulytsia  
Krystyan**

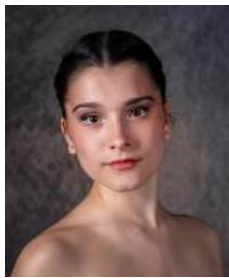


**Yoshino  
Saki**

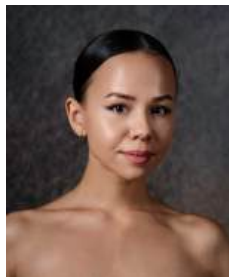


**Yatsyk  
Yulian**

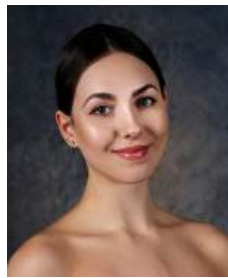
# Company's members



**Alipova  
Yevhenia**



**Artikova  
Elizaveta**



**Bivol  
Luminita**



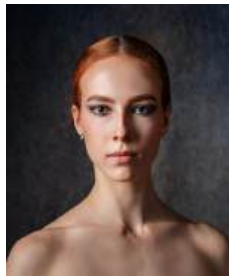
**Cebanu  
Sava**



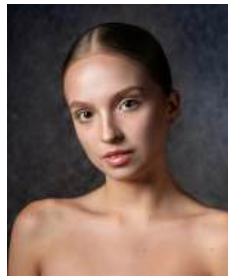
**Gunnhildor  
Johanna**



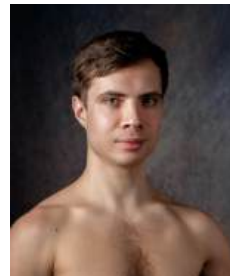
**Khujamberdiev  
Akbar**



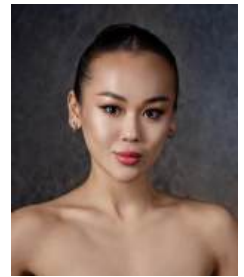
**Oliver  
Milena**



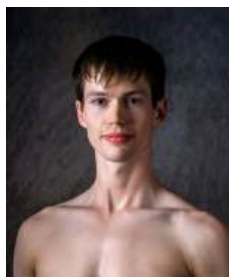
**Pichuhina  
Marharyta**



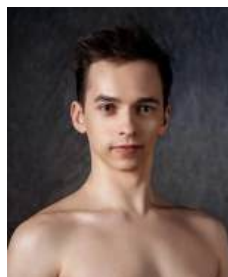
**Pisia  
Andrii**



**Ravshan Kyzy  
Suimkhan**



**Wall David**



**Yatsyk Yulian**



**Yoshino Saki**





**Since 2019 until present time, Classical Arts Entertainment has been working on engaging the studios all over the country with the We 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 2025/2026, in such repertoire, as:

We Dance Program Director CAE's Vaganova-trained Professional Ballet Dancer, We Dance Program Director and Producer, Mr. Artem Yachmennikov, is integral to the success of the student dancers who perform beside the pros in the Nutcracker, Snow White & Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty & Swan Lake! Mr. Artem was the first soloist with the world famous Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, a soloist at The Mariinsky Theater (Kirov) in St.Petersburg and a principal dancer at the Dutch National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

Under his attentive guidance the local Partner Studios of We Dance Program will audition and rehearse over 5000 local ballet students this coming season 25/26 through the troupe's cities on the Winter & Spring tours all over the United States, helping to prepare them for their successful performance alongside State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine's company of 55 professional ballet dancers!





# Our shows

