

# THE NUTCRACKER





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

Looking ahead, we are 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, 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 are 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

# About show

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.

Ballet in Two Acts with one intermission

Family-friendly – suitable for ages 3 and up

**Music** Pyotr Tchaikovsky  
**Choreography** Marius Petipa, Andrei Litvinov

**Act 1** 50-minute      **Intermission** 20-minute      **Act 2** 50-minute



## The Slate Online:

“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.”

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

## 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 kissing 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

## 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...





# The Nutcracker 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Did you know?

## 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.

## Balanchine's Influence:

The Nutcracker as we know it today owes much to George Balanchine. His 1954 production for the New York City Ballet became a blueprint for many subsequent performances and played a significant role in popularizing the ballet in the United States.

## Cultural Phenomenon:

The Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition in many countries, particularly in the United States. Performances during the Christmas season are a significant source of revenue for ballet companies, often accounting for a large portion of their annual income.



## 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.



# 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



## Ravshan Kyzy Suiumkan

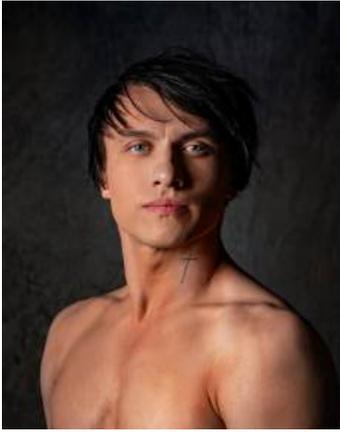
Principal Dancer

### Biography

Ravshan Kyzy Suiumkan is a professional classical ballet dancer from Kyrgyzstan, internationally active as a principal and soloist performer in full length classical productions. She is recognized for her strong classical technique, expressive stage presence, and versatility across both lyrical and virtuoso repertoire. Her work includes leading roles in Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker, as well as participation in international touring ballet projects across Europe and the United Kingdom.

She has participated in international ballet tours across Europe, including the United Kingdom and Germany, performing leading and featured roles in full length classical ballets. A documented United Kingdom performance includes Swan Lake at Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, where she performed the principal dual role of Odette and Odile. Critical commentary noted her technical control, partnering quality, and character contrast between the two roles.

Ravshan Kyzy Suiumkan is noted for clean classical lines, stable pointe technique, expressive port de bras, and confident adagio work. She demonstrates strong adaptability between white act lyricism and black act virtuosity, as well as reliable principal partnering skills. Her repertoire spans traditional classical staging and contemporary themed choreography projects.



## 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.

# First Soloists



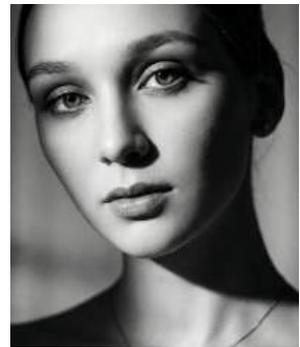
**Shuko  
Tayma**



**Ella  
Slingsby**



**Edgar  
Samvelyan**



**Ana  
Olenic**



**Vasiuk  
Maria**



**Vyaleta  
Herasimovich**



**Ymeko  
Ide**



**Akbar  
Khujamberdiev**

# Corps De Ballet



**Marharyta  
Pichuhina**



**Milena  
Brown**



**Stanislav  
Vidloha**



**Anna De  
Muri**



**David  
Wall**



**Finley  
Watson**



**Ivan  
Kovalenko**



**Izabella  
Fortes**



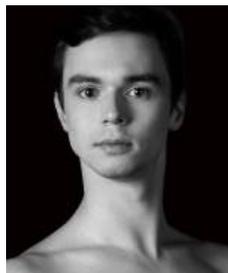
**Kasia  
Wola**



**Layla Proietti  
Bovi**



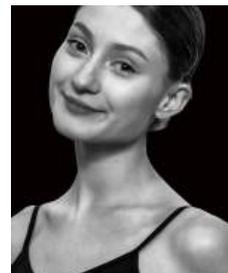
**Pablo Navarro  
Gonzalez**



**Vlad  
Surdu**



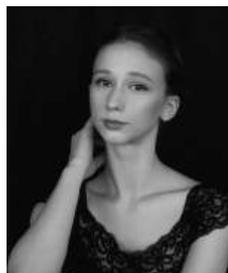
**Yulian  
Vatsyk**



**Taisiia  
Shevchenko**



**Kseniia  
Khavrenko**



**Zlata  
Minchina**

# Company's members



**Aaron Collins**

An award-winning composer  
Artistic Director & Conductor



**Vitalii Zahynailo**

Professional dance  
photographer



**Zhansaya Ospan**

Reels Maker • Professional  
Photographer



**Yelizaveta Kopnina**

Lighting Designer



**Andreii Moisei**

Sound and Technical  
Specialist



**Tatiana Armstrong**

Makeup Specialist



**Inessa Melnichenko**

Wardrobe Specialist



**Since 2019 until present time, United European Ballet Company 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 2026/2027, in such repertoire, as:

CAE's We 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*.

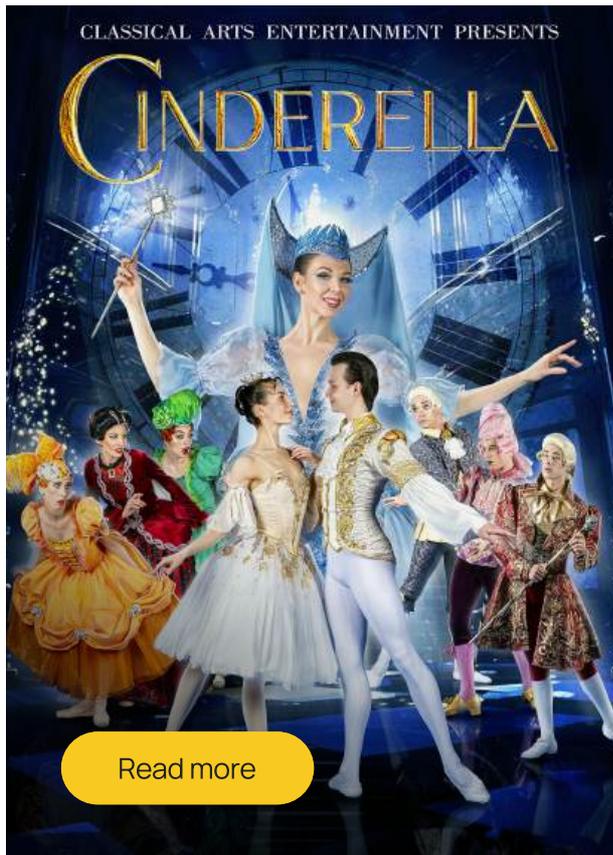
Under his direction and creative leadership, We Love to Dance partner studios audition and rehearse thousands of local ballet students in tour cities each season. During the 2025 to 2026 Winter and Spring tours across the United States, more than 5000 students are expected to participate, gaining meaningful stage experience and professional-level preparation.

The We 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.



CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

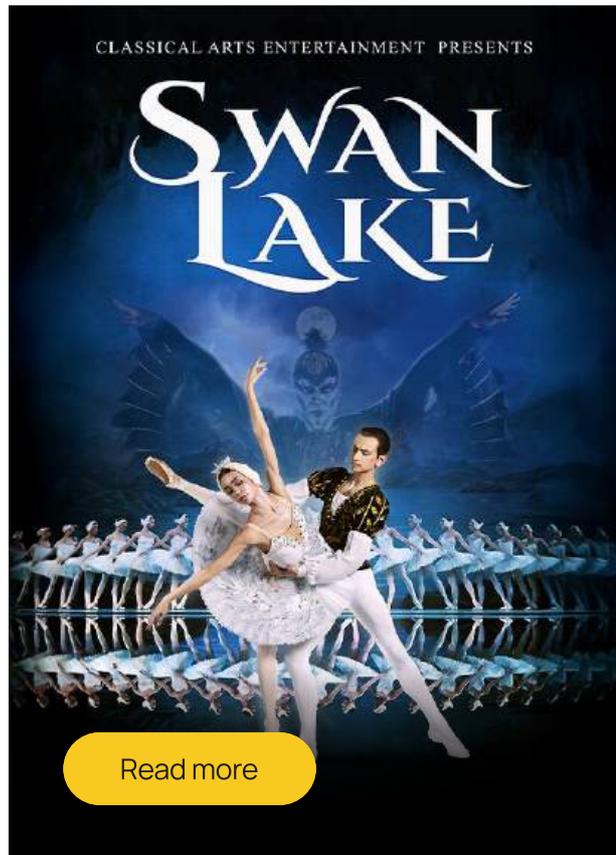
# CINDERELLA



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# SWAN LAKE



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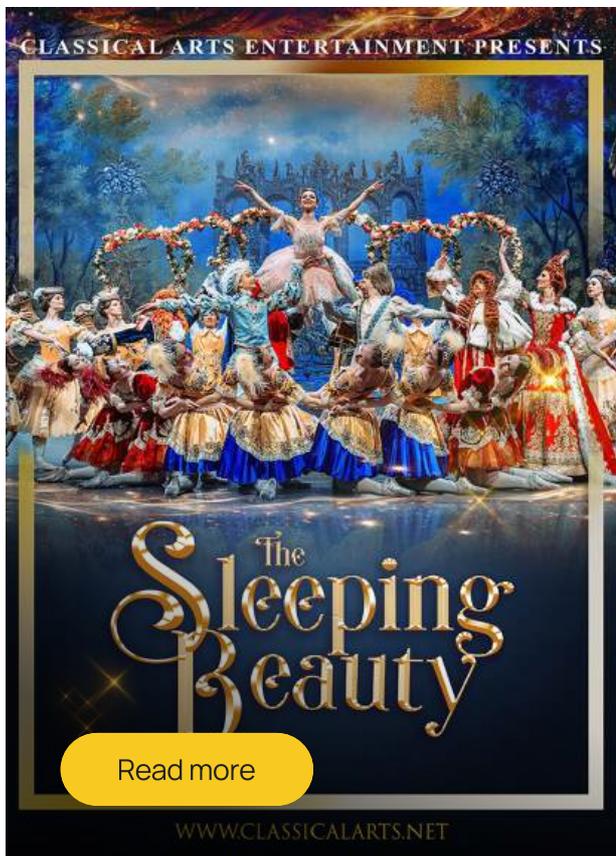
# SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS



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# The Sleeping Beauty



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