

Benicia Ballet Theatre
Presents

Swan Lake

May 10, 2025
1:00 pm and 5:00 pm



BeniciaBallet.com
email-info@BeniciaBallet.com



Letter From Artistic Director

To Our Amazing Patrons,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who supports Benicia Ballet Theatre. A special thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors, our tireless Artistic Staff, our talented dancers, and their families who support their dancers in many, many ways. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to our patrons, sponsors and audience. Your continued support and presence make everything we do possible, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to the arts! It is with great pride that we present to you one of the most challenging classical ballets. First performed in 1875, *Swan Lake* has a rich and storied history, woven into its choreography, score, and mystique. When our Senior dancers first approached me with their desire to perform *Swan Lake*, I was initially concerned that this was too large a step for our Company of dancers. This ballet presents immense challenges. I applaud all of our dancers for their tremendous dedication and commitment to bringing it to life.

Swan Lake demands not only the technical precision that classical ballet requires but also pushes the dancers beyond the physical to develop both athletically and artistically.

Having said that, I would like to extend my heartfelt blessings for our graduating seniors. These two have not only graced our stage with their exceptional talent but have been an integral part of our artistic family, inspiring us with their dedication, passion and artistry. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ineza Marekani and Nanami Stewart and their families for being a part of the BBT community. On behalf of myself, the artistic staff and our Board of Directors, we offer our warmest wishes as you venture forth into new horizons.

The mission of Benicia Ballet Theatre is to provide our community with exceptional performing arts for all, while offering young artists a valuable educational opportunity to nurture and develop their talents. I am truly blessed to serve as the Artistic Director of Benicia Ballet Theatre. As dancer's who have passed through the doors of Benicia Ballet return, sometimes with children of their own, I am constantly reminded that what we do here makes a real and positive impact.

Please join me in supporting these opportunities for both our community and its young students.

With very best wishes to all,
Teresa Taylor
Artistic Director, Benicia Ballet Theatre

Benicia Ballet Theatre proudly presents

Swan Lake

May 10, 2025

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre

Music Written by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Choreography based on Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov and
reworked by Teresa Taylor

Benicia Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. BBT supports and encourages local artists to develop their talents by providing non-discriminatory performance opportunities within the Benicia, Vallejo, and North and East Bay communities. Inspiring dance productions will serve the local communities by making quality cultural activities open, affordable, and accessible to all residents and visitors to the area. The purpose of BBT is to provide charitable and educational programs with no political affiliations to local residents and visitors.

Swan Lake

Act 1

Scene 1: Courtyard

Prince Siegfried, heir to the kingdom, celebrates his birthday in the courtyard. The Queen gives her son a crossbow for which he is thrilled. The Prince anticipates the end of the celebratory dances so he can go hunting.

Scene 2: Lake

As swans are seen in the distance, Prince Siegfried readies himself for their landing by the lakeside. When one comes into view, he is taken by surprise! Before him is a beautiful creature dressed in white, more woman than swan. She is Princess Odette. He learns an evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, once banished from the kingdom, has captured her and other maidens and cast a spell, turning them into swans by day. Every night, she and the others become women again when they reach the lake. The curse can only be broken by the promise of true and lasting love.

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Act 2

Scene 1: Palace Ballroom

The Prince returns to the castle to attend the ball given each year on his birthday. Von Rothbart arrives in disguise with his own daughter, Odile. Rothbart used his magic to make Odile appear to the Prince as Odette except that she wears black rather than white. The prince mistakes her for Odette, dances with her and proclaims his love for her. Only a moment too late, Siegfried realizes the enormous mistake he has made.

Scene 2: Lake

Siegfried returns to the lake distraught and desperate to find Odette. He makes a passionate apology and she forgives him. Von Rothbart appears and tries to separate Siegfried from Odette. A struggle ensues and the Prince renders Rothbart helpless. The curse is lifted and Odette and the maidens are freed.



Swan Lake

Cast List

Saturday May 10, 2025 1:00 pm

Odette Ineza Marekani
Odile Nanami Stewart
Prince Siegfried Tian Tan
Von Rothbart David Bier
Queen Bria Bryant

Village Girl Emery Lovrin
Village Girl Naomi Bekowies
Village Girl Penelope Lockwood
Village Girl Tilden Armoskus-Damm

Village Youth Clara Kjelland
Village Youth Leah Reyes
Village Youth Sentry Arkenstone
Village Youth Teresa Gordon

Maiden Danielle Rippee
Maiden Olivia Anne Jacobson
Maiden Hanna Cao
Maiden Ashlynn Brown
Maiden Anna Reyes
Maiden Jezelle Zahner
Maiden Zyanya Aviles
Maiden Dyani Rea Pelayo
Maiden Jaylyn Sta Maria
Maiden Natalie Coffman

Cygnet Emery Lovrin
Cygnet Naomi Bekowies
Cygnet Penelope Lockwood
Cygnet Tilden Armoskus-Damm

Swan Flapper Clara Kjelland
Swan Flapper Leah Reyes
Swan Flapper Hanna Cao
Swan Flapper Danielle Rippee
Swan Flapper Sentry Arkenstone
Swan Flapper Teresa Gordon
Swan Flapper Olivia Anne Jacobson
Swan Flapper Ashlynn Brown

Little Swan Kassandra Aguilar Robles
Little Swan Anna Reyes
Little Swan Iolana Rodrigues
Little Swan Jezelle Zahner

Big Swan Daphne Sama
Big Swan Naomi Mittman
Big Swan Astrid Estenson
Big Swan Maya Vohra

Swan – Group 1 Gianna Zahner
Swan – Group 1 Dyani Rea Pelayo
Swan – Group 1 Zyanya Aviles
Swan – Group 1 Natalie Coffman

Swan – Group 2 Jaylyn Sta Maria
Swan – Group 2 Rayn Calvo
Swan – Group 2 Rosaleah Mitchell
Swan – Group 2 Yui Stewart
Swan – Group 2 Audrey Eales
Swan – Group 2 Sienna Soulier
Swan – Group 2 Bells Calvo
Swan – Group 2 Charlie Manuel

Spanish Lead Rayn Calvo

Spanish Kassandra Aguilar Robles
Spanish Anna Reyes
Spanish Iolana Rodrigues
Spanish Jezelle Zahner

Neapolitan Rosaleah Mitchell
Neapolitan Yui Stewart
Neapolitan Audrey Eales
Neapolitan Sienna Soulier

Russian Bells Calvo
Russian Charlie Manuel

Hungarian Czardás Daphne Sama
Hungarian Czardás Naomi Mittman
Hungarian Czardás Astrid Estenson
Hungarian Czardás Maya Vohra

Saturday May 10, 2025 5:00 pm

Odette Nanami Stewart
Odile Ineza Marekani
Prince Siegfried Tian Tan
Von Rothbart David Bier
Queen Bria Bryant

Village Girl Emery Lovrin
Village Girl Naomi Bekowies
Village Girl Penelope Lockwood
Village Girl Tilden Armoskus-Damm

Village Youth Clara Kjelland
Village Youth Leah Reyes
Village Youth Sentry Arkenstone
Village Youth Teresa Gordon

Maiden Danielle Rippee
Maiden Olivia Anne Jacobson
Maiden Hanna Cao
Maiden Ashlynn Brown
Maiden Anna Reyes
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Neapolitan Audrey Eales
Neapolitan Sienna Soulier

Russian Bells Calvo
Russian Charlie Manuel

Hungarian Czardás Daphne Sama
Hungarian Czardás Naomi Mittman
Hungarian Czardás Astrid Estenson
Hungarian Czardás Maya Vohra

Our Benicia Ballet 2025

Senior Dancers



Nanami Stewart



Ineza Marekani

Board of Directors

President	Rosana Aguilar
Vice President	Catherine Sarmiento
Treasurer.....	Anny Wu
Secretary.....	Reggie Mitchell
Members at Large.....	Natalie Mittman Stella Sarmiento Diana Smith

Production Staff

Artistic Director	Teresa Taylor
Assistant to the Director.....	Gianna Zahner
Choreographers.....	David Bier Alexis Risi Teresa Taylor Tina Zahner Gianna Zahner
Production Manager.....	Annie Morris
Lighting Designer.....	Annie Morris
Stage Manager.....	Barbara Campbell
Assistant Stage Manager.....	John Metellus
Stagehands.....	Roy Morris Arlaya Shephard Rob Rowland
Photography/Graphic Design.....	Peter Lichy
Videography.....	Louie Dela Cruz
Costume Manager.....	Catherine Sarmiento
Costume Assistants.....	Beth Sama Tessa Zahner

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\$1,000 in November 2024

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BBT Annual Membership.....	Chelsey Villanueva
BBT Annual Membership.....	Laura Towfighi
BBT Annual Membership.....	Dawn Gibson
BBT Annual Membership.....	Joy Moverley
BBT Annual Membership.....	Jeremy Throne
BBT Annual Membership.....	Diana Smith
BBT Annual Membership.....	Natalie Mittman
BBT Annual Membership.....	Rosana Aguilar
BBT Annual Membership.....	Stella Sarmiento
BBT Annual Membership.....	Anny Wu
BBT Annual Membership.....	Charli O'Malley
BBT Annual Membership.....	Alicia Brewster
BBT Annual Membership.....	Kayoko Stewart

Special Thanks To

ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR
MANY HOURS OF HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION!

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SUMMER DANCE WORKSHOPS

Sponsored in part by Benicia Arts & Culture Commission

Twilight Camp
Ages 4-7
July 21-August 1, 5-7pm M-F
\$150/week
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Ages 8-11
July 14-August 1, 9am-3pm M-F
\$225/week
No prior experience required

Ballet Intensive
Ages 11+
July 14-August 1, 9am-3pm M-F
\$275/week
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Visit beniciaballet.com for registration
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