

**Benicia Ballet Theatre Presents**

# *Sleeping Beauty*

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**BENICIA BALLET**





# Artistic Director's Letter


Welcome to our enchanting performance of Tchaikovsky's timeless masterpiece, *Sleeping Beauty Ballet*. As the Artistic Director of Benicia Ballet Theatre, it gives me immense pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you.

Today, we embark on a journey through a realm where magic, music, and movement intertwine to tell a story as old as time itself. The tale of *Sleeping Beauty*, with its ethereal princess, noble prince, and malevolent curse, has captivated audiences for generations, and it is with great pride that we bring it to life on this stage.

Beyond the spectacle and splendor, *Sleeping Beauty Ballet* carries with it a timeless message of love, resilience, and the triumph of good over evil. In a world often fraught with darkness, we invite you to join us in celebrating the power of hope and the beauty of dreams.

This particular version was gifted to Benicia Ballet Theatre by a former colleague and friend, Ilona McHugh. A heartfelt thank you goes to Ilona, whose imaginative scenario and musical arrangement breathed new life into our production. Her creative spirit has infused this production with an ethereal charm.

Today is a particularly special occasion as we bid farewell to our talented, graduating highschool seniors. These individuals 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 Gillian Mead, Gianna Zahner, Jada Davis and Samantha Hernandez and their families for being 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.



I also owe gratitude to our Board of Directors for their steadfast support. Your commitment, guidance, and hard work have been instrumental in bringing this production to fruition and continuing BBT's mission of providing quality dance instruction and performance opportunities to our local community. I would be remiss if I didn't include my thanks for the support of the City of Benicia, City of Vacaville, Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre staff, our dance families, the artistic staff and my own family. This support is invaluable in keeping Benicia Ballet Theatre growing into the future.


As the music begins to swell and the curtain rises, I encourage you to let yourselves be carried away by the magic of this extraordinary tale. Allow yourselves to be swept up in the grandeur of the dance, the majesty of the music, and the enchantment of the story.

On behalf of everyone involved in bringing this production to life, thank you for joining us. Your presence here is a testament to the enduring power of the arts to unite, inspire, and uplift us all.

Cheers to the awakening of new dreams,

Teresa Taylor  
Artistic Director





# Sleeping Beauty

Once upon a time, in a far away land, a Princess is born. All the kingdom is invited to celebrate the birth. The Fairies who watch over the kingdom arrive, each comes bearing a gift for the princess. To be graceful, beautiful, generous, sing beautifully, be witty and courageous. But before the last gift can be bestowed upon the Princess, the Evil Fairy, Carabosse, who accidentally did not receive an invitation to the Celebration, arrives full of anger and gives her gift to the Princess:


"Before the sun goes down on the Princess' sixteenth birthday she will prick her finger on a spindle and die!"

The Queen is terribly upset and begs Carabosse to remove the curse. Carabosse will not hear of it. In desperation, the Queen turns to the Queen of the Fairies, the Lilac Fairy, to help her innocent daughter. The Lilac Fairy, who had not yet given her gift assures the Queen that it will all end happily:

"The Princess will indeed prick her finger, but she will not die, but rather fall asleep until a Prince will awaken her with true love's kiss."

The day of Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday arrived and indeed, she pricked her finger and fell fast asleep.

Years pass until one day a Prince is found wandering the forest and taken to the glade where the Princess lies sleeping. The Prince is smitten, a kiss bestowed, the Princess awakens and the court entertainers gather to celebrate the Lilac Fairies gift come true!





# Cast List

## Matinee

**Royal Attendants**

**Royal Attendants**

**Royal Attendants**

**Royal Attendants**

**Royal Attendants**

Naomi Mittman

Charlie Manuel

Bells Calvo

Maya Vohra

Astrid Estenson

**Garland Dancers**

**Garland Dancers**

**Garland Dancers**

**Garland Dancers**

**Garland Dancers**

**Garland Dancers**

Sofie Tanner

Sienna Soulier

Audrey Eales

Rosaleah Mitchell

Kassandra Aguilar-Robles

Jaylyn Sta. Maria

**Lead Royal**

**Lead Royal**

Leah Reyes

Braeden Soulier

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

**Royal Entourage**

Tilden Armoskus-Damm

Rafaela Cruz

Ella Gatchalian

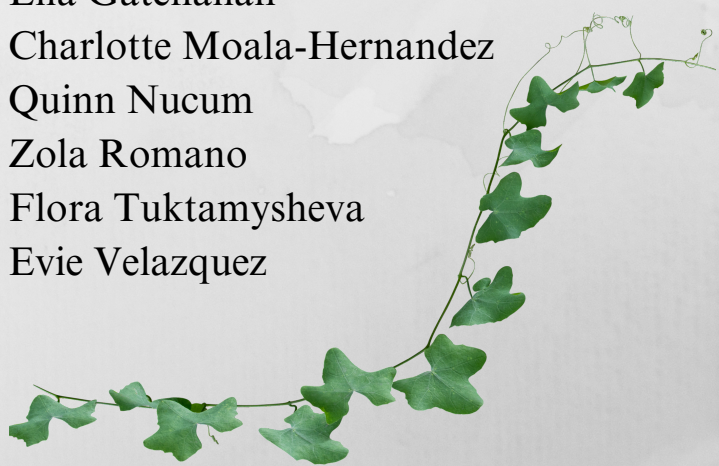
Charlotte Moala-Hernandez

Quinn Nucum

Zola Romano

Flora Tuktamysheva

Evie Velazquez





# Matinee

**Queen  
King**

Alex Mead  
Ross Soulier

**Lady in Waiting**

Dyani Rea Pelayo

**Grace  
Courage  
Generosity  
Song  
Wit  
Lilac**

Jada Davis  
Olivia Zmak  
Gillian Mead  
Yui Stewart  
Rayn Calvo  
Nanami Stewart

**Carabosse**

Ineza Marekani

**Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers  
Gift Bearers**

Brooklyn White  
Noelle Mittman  
Erin Miller  
Olivia Anne Jacobson  
Teresa Gordon  
Josephine Fernandez  
Joelle Fernandes  
Sentry Arkenstone

**Aurora's Friends  
Aurora's Friends  
Aurora's Friends  
Aurora's Friends  
Aurora's Friends**

Jezelle Zahner  
Anna Reyes  
Jamie Morris  
Claire Mikkelsen  
Danielle Rippee





# Matinee

**Aurora**

Gianna Zahner

**Vines**

Brooklyn White

**Vines**

Noelle Mittman

**Vines**

Erin Miller

**Vines**

Olivia Anne Jacobson

**Vines**

Teresa Gordon

**Vines**

Josephine Fernandez

**Vines**

Joelle Fernandes

**Vines**

Sentry Arkenstone

**Prince**

Tian Tan

**Maid of Honor**

Dyani Rea Pelayo

**Princesses/Celebrants**

Jezelle Zahner

**Princesses/Celebrants**

Anna Reyes

**Princesses/Celebrants**

Jamie Morris

**Princesses/Celebrants**

Claire Mikkelsen

**Princesses/Celebrants**

Danielle Rippee

**Blue Bird**

Bells Calvo

**Jewels - Gold**


Charlie Manuel

**Jewels - Diamond**

Astrid Estenson

**Jewels - Silver**

Maya Vohra





# Matinee

**Red Riding Hood  
Wolf**

Jezelle Zahner  
Kassandra Aguilar-Robles

**Hansel  
Gretel**

Braeden Soulier  
Leah Reyes

**Candies  
Candies  
Candies  
Candies  
Candies  
Candies  
Candies  
Candies**

Tilden Armoskus-Damm  
Rafaela Cruz  
Ella Gatchalian  
Charlotte Moala-Hernandez  
Quinn Nucum  
Zola Romano  
Flora Tuktamysheva  
Evie Velazquez





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Charlie Manuel

Bells Calvo

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Flora Tuktamysheva

Evie Velazquez





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**Lady in Waiting**

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**Courage**  
**Generosity**  
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**Wit**  
**Lilac**

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Sofie Tanner  
Sienna Soulier  
Ineza Marekani

**Carabosse**

Gillian Mead

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Anna Reyes  
Jamie Morris  
Claire Mikkelsen  
Danielle Rippee





# Evening

**Aurora**

Olivia Zmak

**Vines**

Brooklyn White

**Vines**

Noelle Mittman

**Vines**

Erin Miller

**Vines**

Olivia Anne Jacobson

**Vines**

Teresa Gordon

**Vines**

Josephine Fernandez

**Vines**

Joelle Fernandes

**Vines**

Sentry Arkenstone

**Prince**

Tian Tan

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Zola Romano  
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Evie Velazquez





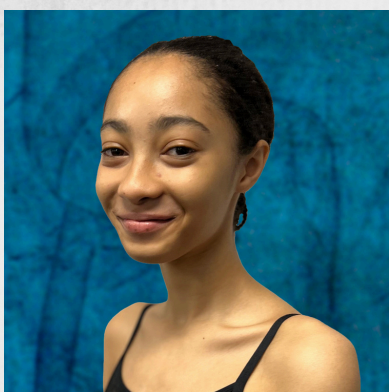
# Senior Dancers



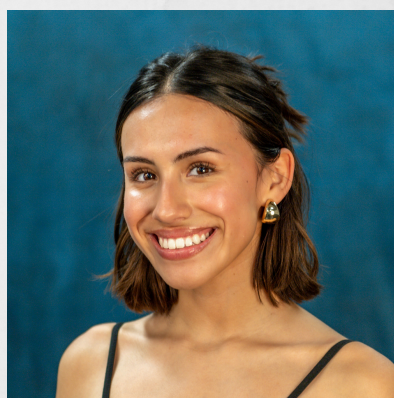
*Gianna Zahner*




*Gillian Mead*



*Jada Davis*



*Samantha Hernandez*





# Production Staff

## **Artistic Director**

Teresa Taylor

## **Associate Director**

Frances Lai Baca

## **Choreographer**

Ilona McHugh

## **Restaged by**

Alexis Risi, Frances Lai Baca, Teresa Taylor, Tina Zahner

## **Theatre Manager**

Rachel Morgan

## **Videographer**

Louie Dela Cruz

## **Production Manager**

Annie Morris

## **Costume Manager**

Frances Lai Baca

## **Stage Manager**

Christen Eales

## **Costume Assistants**

Amadine Marekani, Catherine Sarmiento,  
Chelsey Villanueva, Michelle Miller,  
Tessa Zahner

## **Assistant Stage Manager**

John Metellus

## **Lighting Design**

Benjamin Yee

## **Poster Design**

Teresa Taylor

## **Photography**

Peter Lichty

## **Program Design**

Wil Zmak





# Special Thanks To Our Sponsors

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Teresa Taylor and John Metellus**

## Benicia Ballet Members

**Rosana Aguilar  
Tiffany Anderson  
Alicia Brewster  
Ring Calvo  
Sara Casey  
Monica Estenson  
Margaret Kenrick  
Joy Manuel  
Alex Mead  
Regina Mitchell  
Jill Morris  
Joy Moverley  
Catherine Sarmiento  
Stella Sarmiento  
Phil Seilhan  
Kayoko Stewart**

