

Ballet Society of Colorado Springs

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Susan Brooks
Publicity Coordinator
719-534-0910; susanballetsociety@msn.com

Ballet Society to charm Colorado Springs with Coppelia

Coppelia, one of the repertoire's most beloved full-length ballets, will be performed by the Ballet Society of Colorado Springs Pre-Professional Division on Saturday June 4, at 7:00 pm. This is an all-new production with choreography by co-artistic directors, Holly Marble and Patricia Hoffman. The performance will be held at the Rampart High School theatre, 8250 Lexington Drive.

"We set our goals extremely high when we took on this project," said Hoffman. "And, as the students have progressed, it's been amazing to see how proficient they've become at incorporating the roles of their characters into their dancing. They've become accomplished actors, as well as dancers!"

Coppelia, with music by Léo Delibes (1836-1891), produced a breakthrough in the ballet world when first performed in the Paris of 1870. Its classic story, derived from E.T.A. Hoffmann's *Der Sandmann*, tells of Swanhilda, who takes the place of a mechanical doll in the mysterious workshop of Dr. Coppelius. Swanhilda fools Dr. Coppelius into thinking his beloved doll has come to life, and in the process, Swanhilda wins back the love of fiancé Franz, who was fascinated by the doll he believed to be real. All ends well with a wedding festival.

In all, 64 dancers, some as young as 8 years-old, will perform in this charming comedy. Colorado Springs native Angela Wood performs the role Swanhilda, the 13-year-old's first principal lead in a three-act classical ballet.

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“Angela’s attainment of ballet excellence at such a young age has been nothing short of astonishing,” said Marble. “Audiences will see a real artist on the stage. Angela’s poise and presence are quite remarkable.”

Scott Marble, a seasoned professional and former member of Nevada Ballet Theatre and Ballet West performs the role of Franz and David Sckolnik, local Colorado Springs arts advocate and entrepreneur who is currently the marketing director for the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, performs the non-dancing role of “Dr. Coppelius”.

“We’ve chosen to go all out in for this performance,” said Marble. “Besides months of studio preparation, costumes and set pieces are really quite stunning. We’re confident our audience will be treated to a fine entertainment.

Ballet Society of Colorado Springs, founded in 1997, has a mission of training young dancers with a focus on excellence, health, and integrity. BSCS offers extensive training in classical ballet, as well as programs in jazz, lyrical, hip hop, and worship dance for children and adults. BSCS launched Colorado’s Classical Youth Ballet Company in September of 2003. This group of 29 young dancers, who study and rehearse year-round, presents classical and contemporary ballet to audiences throughout the city and recently performed for the second season with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic at Pikes Peak Center. Last year they performed with stars from American Ballet Theatre from New York City.

The Ballet Society will offer its Summer Ballet Intensive featuring national and international faculty from June 13-July 9; worship dance workshops for the novice and trained dancer on June 25; Summer Ballet Workshop for pre-pointe dancers June 13-July 9; Summer Showcase Performance on July 9 at Rampart High School. For information regarding any of these events, call 272-7078.

Tickets to Coppelia are available by calling the Ballet Society studio at 272-7078, or at Rampart High School the evening of the performance. Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$5 for students and seniors.

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