

PRESS RELEASE
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“New Eastside ballet company produces two new works in *Tales from the Mediterranean*”

Experience stories from the land of red and blue tile roofs, whitewashed walls, cobblestone streets, and crystal beaches fringed with the lapping waves of the Mediterranean Sea. Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) culminates an impressive inaugural season with two new ballets featuring music and dance inspired by Greece and Spain on Saturday, June 7, at Newport High School Performing Arts Center in Bellevue.

“It all begins with the music,” explains Viktoria Titova, EBT’s Artistic Director and former Bolshoi ballerina (Grigorovich company). For “King Midas and the Golden Touch,” exuberant traditional Greek melodies inspire the tale. Ting Liu, professional ballerina and Bellevue native, performs as Princess Marygold opposite Derek Wright of Seattle as King Midas. Eighty EBT students from throughout the Eastside and Seattle make up the supporting cast. This well loved myth evokes humor, intrigue, tragedy, and restoration. Intricate music by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev propels the narrative forward to a celebration of “Greek” proportions.

The second act is a more contemplative ballet inspired by a story from Spanish author Carmen Arcas. Born on the Mediterranean coast of Spain, Arcas writes in a colloquial but poetic style, in which brushstrokes of her childhood emerge. She wrote the dreamlike “El Envés de la Noche” especially for Emerald Ballet Theatre and plans to travel to Bellevue for the premiere. With a doctorate from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Arcas lectures at cultural institutions throughout Spain in addition to publishing novels, poetry, and prose. A series of vignettes paint the portrait of a woman’s life of love, inner demons, and reconciliation.

EBT welcomes guest artist Daniel Escudero, who has performed with San Francisco Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Tucson, and Ballet West (Edinburgh International Festival). He will perform the lead in this contemporary Spanish ballet opposite Viktoria Titova. Titova’s innovative choreography performed to a passionate musical score allows professional division EBT students to dance alongside their adult mentors. Titova also weaves talented ballroom dancers into the tapestry of this story to represent the passage of time.

Local viola virtuoso, acclaimed painter, and recent New York City transplant Emanuel Vardi (www.vardiart.com) worked with Titova to select a score that captures the unique flavor of Spain through classical music. “The beauty of his original recordings helped develop the characters in my mind,” explains Titova. “Collaborating with other artists brings performances to a higher level. That is what we want to develop at EBT. And the Vardis are part of that creative process.”

Both works premiere Saturday, June 7, at the performance of “Tales from the Mediterranean” at 2 P.M. and 7 P.M. at the Newport High School Performing Arts Center in Bellevue. Tickets are available at www.emeraldballet.org or by calling (425) 883-3405, and will be sold at the theatre prior to the performances. Between performances delicious food provided by Garlic Crush Fresh Mediterranean Grill and other local businesses will be available. All proceeds support EBT outreach activities including arts programs for special needs children.