FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EMERALD BALLET THEATRE

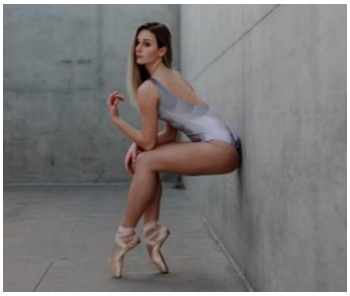
Emerald Ballet Theatre presents *Coppélia*

Bellevue, WA – Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) is thrilled to present *Coppélia* on May 18 and 19 at 2 p.m. at the Northshore Performing Arts Center (NPAC) in Bothell.

Set to music by Léo Delibes, the lighthearted and uplifting *Coppélia* centers around a spirited village girl (Swanilda), her fiancé (Franz), and a mysterious figure who almost comes between them. Add an eccentric toymaker (Dr. Coppelius) and a variety of dancing dolls to the mix, and you've got a ballet that is fun for all ages.

Students from Emerald Ballet Academy (EBA) – recipient of the 2018 Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) Outstanding School award – are featured in the production. Sharing the title role of Swanilda are Mckenzie Wilson of Woodinville (Saturday the 18th) and Abigail (Abbey) Gamba of Sammamish (Sunday the 19th).

Mckenzie Wilson, 14, is an 8th grader at Northshore Middle School. She has danced for 12 years; the past seven at Emerald Ballet Academy. Mckenzie has been honored in the Top 12 at the Seattle YAGP Youth Semi-Finals for the past five years. In January, she was awarded 1st place in the Junior Classical category. She has also competed as a soloist in the YAGP New York Finals in 2018 and 2019. Mckenzie attended the School of American Ballet summer intensive for the past two years and will be returning to SAB again this summer.



Abbey Gamba, 15, is a 9th grader at Eastlake High School. She has been dancing since she was three, and at EBA for the past five years. She previously trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and attended Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's summer intensive in 2017. Abbey placed in the Top 24 of the YAGP Seattle Semi-Finals in 2016 and 2018. In addition to dancing, Abbey models for Zulily Studio, and is represented by Seattle Talent.

Ryan Hong of Woodinville and Rafe Dahlinger of Monroe share the role of Franz. Genya Minkin of Bothell is Dr. Coppelius.

Coppélia is an EBT premiere, and as such, "It's very exciting to see all the elements coming together, from costumes and choreography to sets and a special event for children. Thank you everyone for making it happen and supporting arts on the Eastside!" says EBT's Artistic Director, Viktoria Titova.

Ballet Master, Roman Zinovyev, adds, "Our dancers, who are very accomplished for their ages, are doing a wonderful job tackling these new roles."

Tickets are $29.99 for adults, $24.99 for seniors, and $16.50 for youth 0-17, and can be purchased by calling (425) 883-3405 or online at https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4112290. NPAC features free parking, easy freeway access, and excellent views from every seat.

Special Tea Party/Backstage Tour for Children 10 and Younger
Kiddos coming to *Coppélia* on Saturday are invited to dress up and bring their favorite doll. Before the show, they will enjoy a complimentary juice box and cookies in the lobby, and take pictures with performers. They will learn about the story of *Coppélia* and basic theater etiquette. The tea party will conclude with a brief tour of backstage so attendees can get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes action. FREE with admission! RSVP here.

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Emerald Ballet Theatre was founded in 2007 by Artistic Director Viktoria Titova, former ballerina with the Bolshoi Theatre Grigorovich Company. EBT is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that is committed to advancing the art of ballet through education, performance, community outreach, and collaboration with other arts organizations. Emerald Ballet Academy is the official school of EBT. The Academy is now accepting registrations for its summer camps, classes and ballet intensives. Visit emeraldballet.org for more information.