

INTERNATIONAL
BALLET STARS*

SWAN LAKE



About show

Music Pyotr Tchaikovsky
Choreography Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

Act 1 62-minute
Intermission 20-minute
Act 2 46-minute

Timeless. Majestic. Unforgettable.

Step into the world of Swan Lake – a story of love, magic, and triumph, brought to life through the powerful choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic score.

This production features all-new, hand-painted sets and over 200 custom-designed scenery elements, transforming the stage into a dreamlike landscape. With world-renown ballet artists from Italy, Spain, Georgia, Ireland, Turkey, Brazil, Great Britain, Ukraine, Japan, Tajikistan, Moldova, and Kazakhstan, this performance embodies the spirit of international artistry and excellence.

Every scene – from the poetic “Dance of the Little Swans” to Odile’s dazzling 32 fouetté turns – is a celebration of classical ballet in its most pure and expressive form.

Ballet in Two Acts with one intermission

Family-friendly – suitable for ages 3 and up



The Daily Texan:

“The magic of Swan Lake transcends generations.”

“Odile perfectly executed the iconic 32 fouetté turns – one of the most anticipated and difficult scenes.”

“Swan Lake continues to inspire dancers and patrons of the arts to appreciate a performance that never loses its sparkle.”

International Ballet Stars have toured extensively throughout Europe, North America, and South America, including leading world ballet companies. Collectively, they have performed worldwide, bringing world-class ballet to diverse communities around the globe.



Synopsis



Prologue

The wicked magician Rothbart has put a curse on the beautiful maiden Odette and her friends, turning the girls into swans during the day – they are only human at night. Only a boundless true love can release them from the curse.

Scene 1

In the garden in front of the castle, Prince Siegfried celebrates his coming-of-age party. The guests, ladies-in-waiting, and the prince's best friend, Benno, all rejoice. A hilarious Jester entertains everyone by dancing.

The reigning Queen, the mother of the prince, informs everyone that during the next day's ball Siegfried must choose a fiancée. Prince Siegfried is disappointed as he has not met a girl who he could love. It is growing dark. The guests leave the garden. Alone, Siegfried sees a flock of white swans flying high in sky, spurring him to hunt. Taking a crossbow, the prince goes into the forest.

Scene 2

At the lakeside, Siegfried sees a white swan and draws his bow to shoot. Suddenly the swan transforms into Odette. Her beauty charms the Siegfried. Odette tells the prince of the curse. Siegfried professes his love and vows his devotion. The evil magician sees Odette and Siegfried together and decides to trick the prince into breaking his vows to Odette.

Act I



Act II

Scene 1

The ball has begun, but Siegfried is uninterested in any of the noblewomen dancing there. Baron von Rothbart and his daughter, Odile, arrive. Siegfried thinks Odile looks like Odette, but Benno does not agree. Siegfried asks Odile to dance and, enchanted by her, agrees to marry her. At that moment, Rothbart reveals himself as the evil magician, Odile laughs, and a white swan wearing a crown appears in the window. Siegfried runs out of the castle.

Scene 2

At the lakeside, Odette tells her friends about Siegfried's betrayal. Their hope to become free is lost forever. The curse of the evil magician has triumphed. The prince searches for Odette to beg for her forgiveness: he was convinced that Odile was actually Odette, and thought he was promising to marry her. Siegfried battles through a terrible storm Rothbart has created; and begins to fight him. Odette protects her beloved Prince from a deathblow, unwittingly breaking the curse with her love. The loving couple gladly meet the rays of the rising sun; Odette and her friends are human again.





Swan Lake Composer



Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky

(1840-1893)

Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky was the author of some of the most popular themes in all of classical music. He founded no school, struck out no new paths or compositional methods, and sought few innovations in his works. Yet the power of his best music elevates it to classic status. It was Tchaikovsky's unique melodic charm that could, whether in his Piano Concerto No. 1 or in his ballet *The Nutcracker* or in his tragic last symphony, make the music sound familiar on first hearing.

Tchaikovsky was born into a family of five brothers and one sister. He began taking piano lessons at age four and showed remarkable talent, eventually surpassing his own teacher's abilities. By age nine, he exhibited severe nervous problems, not least because of his overly sensitive nature. The following year, he was sent to St. Petersburg to study at the School of Jurisprudence. The loss of his mother in **1854** dealt a crushing blow to the young Tchaikovsky. In **1859**, he took a position in the Ministry of Justice, but longed for a career in music, attending concerts and operas at every opportunity. He finally began study in harmony with Zaremba in **1861**, and enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory the following year, eventually studying composition with Anton Rubinstein.

In **1866**, the composer relocated to Moscow, accepting a professorship of harmony at the new conservatory, and shortly afterward turned out his First Symphony, suffering, however, a nervous breakdown during its composition. His opera *The Voyevoda* came in **1867-1868** and he began another, *The Oprichnik*, in **1870**, completing it two years later.

In 1869 Tchaikovsky entered into a working relationship with composer Mily Balakirev, leader of *The Five*; the result was Tchaikovsky's first recognized masterpiece, the fantasy-overture *Romeo and Juliet*. Other works were appearing during this time, as well, including the First String Quartet (**1871**), the Second Symphony (**1873**), and the ballet *Swan Lake* (**1875**).

In **1876**, Tchaikovsky traveled to Paris with his brother, Modest, and then visited Bayreuth, where he met Liszt. By **1877**, Tchaikovsky was an established composer. This was the year of *Swan Lake*'s premiere and the time he began work on the Fourth Symphony (**1877-1878**). The period of subsidy by Mme von Meck was abundantly productive for Tchaikovsky with a spate of outstanding compositions, including the *Serenade for Strings* (**1881**), *1812 Overture* (**1882**), and the Fifth Symphony (1888). In both **1888** and **1889**, Tchaikovsky went on European tours as a conductor, meeting Brahms, Grieg, Dvřak, Gounod, and other notable musical figures. *Sleeping Beauty* was premiered in **1890**, and *The Nutcracker* in **1892**, both with success.

Swan Lake was the first ballet of Pyotr Tchaikovsky?

Written in 1876, it's a kaleidoscope of melodies, dancing, and folklore motifs. This is one of the most frequently staged ballets worldwide and paved the way for the legendary *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Swan Lake grew out of a home performance?

Tchaikovsky's family staged an amateur performance, with the composer himself directing and choreographing. This homegrown fairy tale about a swan evolved into the masterpiece we know today.

Did you know?

Swan Lake became iconic after Tchaikovsky's death?

In 1895, Marius Petipa's staging at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater became canonical, marking the ascension of Russian ballet to global fame.

The Dance of the Little Swans is the most famous dance in the world?

Even if you've never seen *Swan Lake*, you've likely heard its music and seen excerpts of this iconic dance, a highlight of Russian ballet and a favorite for parodies.



About us

International Ballet Stars bring world-class ballet to communities throughout the United States and Canada, producing full-scale classical ballet productions. Uniting cultures through the universal language of ballet while preserving the greatest traditions of classical ballet and inspiring generations of artists and audiences.

Based in Miami and lead by producers and founders, Artem Yachmennikov & Ekaterina Vaganova-Yachmennikova, International Ballet Stars company unites artists from Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, Romania, Japan, Turkey, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Brazil, Poland, Tajikistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and beyond — with Principal Dancers from Ukraine and Moldova. The International Ballet Stars invited to participate in the tour represent the highest level of professional training and accomplishment in the field of classical ballet.

These International Ballet Stars have performed with prestigious companies such as State Ballet of Berlin, Hungarian National Ballet, National Opera of Ukraine, Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, Kyiv City Ballet, Moscow City Ballet, Belarusian State Academic Musical Theatre, Dnipro Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Tajik State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, among others.

International Ballet Stars artists stand among the most celebrated artists of their generation, distinguished by Grand Prix titles, first prizes, and a wealth of international honors across the world's foremost ballet stages. Their artistry has been recognized at such iconic institutions as the Varna International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria, the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, Youth America Grand Prix, the Moscow International Ballet Competition at the historic Bolshoi Theatre, the Arabesque International Ballet Competition in Perm, and the Korea International Ballet Competition in Seoul.

They have further earned acclaim at the illustrious Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland and the Helsinki International Ballet Competition in Finland — landmarks of excellence that shape the global ballet landscape.

Together, these achievements reflect not only individual brilliance, but a profound dedication to the timeless traditions and highest ideals of the classical art form.

They received formal training at internationally recognized institutions such as the Royal Ballet School International Program (UK), School of Vadim Pisarev at the Donetsk State, Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after A. Solovyanenko (Ukraine), Kharkiv State Academy of Culture (Ukraine), Annarella Roura Sánchez International Conservatory (Portugal), Centro Coreográfico de Las Palmas (Spain), Yerevan State Choreographic College (Armenia), Moscow Choreographic School named after Lavrovsky (Russia), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Teatro Basileu França (Brazil).

These International Ballet Stars have toured extensively throughout Europe, North America, and South America, including leading world ballet companies. Collectively, they have performed worldwide, bringing world-class ballet to diverse communities around the globe.



Our Team



Artem Yachmennikov

A distinguished ballet professional with exceptional global classical ballet & dance industry expertise. A graduate of the renowned Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet. Performed as Principal Dancer with some of the world's most prestigious companies, including the Mariinsky Theatre, the Bolshoi Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, and Dutch National Ballet, interpreting all leading roles of the classical repertoire.

Collaborated with legendary choreographers, ballet masters, such as Natalia Makarova, Peter Wright, Hans van Manen, Alexei Ratmansk, Rudi van Dantzig, John Neumeier, William Forsythe, Francesco Ventriglia, Patrick de Bana, Aidar Akhmetov, Helgi Tomasson, Ted Brandsen, and more. Danced alongside internationally acclaimed ballerinas, including Svetlana Zakharova, Anna Tsygankova, Maria Alexandrova, Igone de Jongh, Sofiane Sylve, Tan Yuan Yuan, Larisa Leznina, Ylia Makhalina, and more. Guest Artist at numerous international Galas and prizewinner of an International Ballet Competition in South Korea.

Repertoire includes the performance of nearly all principal roles in the most renowned classical and contemporary ballets, such as "The Nutcracker", (Prince), "La Bayadere", (Solor), "La Sylphide", (James), "Swan Lake", (Prince Siegfried), "The Sleeping Beauty", (Prince Desire), "Giselle", (Albrecht), "Romeo and Juliet", (Romeo), "Coppelia", (Franz), "Chopiniana", "Le Corsaire", (Bibbante), "Don Quixote", (Espada), "Symphony in C", (soloist), "Serenade" choreographed by George Balanchine, "Steptext" by William Forsythe, "Sarcasmen", "Adagio Hammerklavier" by Hans van Manen, "Adagio Hammerklavier", "Kammerballett", "Black Cake" by Hans van Manen, "Russian Seasons", "The Flames of Paris", (Antuan Mistrel) by Alexei Ratmansk, "The Flames of Paris", (Antuan Mistrel), "Scheherazade", (Golden slave), "The Firebird", (Ivan-Tsarevich), "Cleopatra", (Robert de Montesquiou), "Ghost Ball", "Fourteenth", (Poet).

Founded a successful ballet academy, We Dance Academies, in the United States, Florida, whose students became top laureates at international competitions, such as YAGP World Ballet Competition, Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition, Universal Ballet Competition, ADC IBC - Youth International Ballet Competition, and got accepted in professional ballet companies, such as Sarasota Ballet, Orlando Ballet & Washington Ballet.

Established Melbourne City Ballet Theatre, a 501c3 not-for-profit company, producing full-scale ballets such as Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Melbourne City Ballet Theatre was inspired by the need for a full-time, year-round, performing company whose mission is to bring international ballet stars and professional ballet companies to Brevard County, while also offering young dancers in the local community a unique opportunity to share the stage with professional ballet artists and perform for local audiences. The Board of Directors, along with Artistic Director, Artem Yachmennikov, shared a vision to consistently provide projects, community outreach programs, and classical training that brought ballet and the culture of dance arts to the center of life in Brevard County.

In 2021, founded the We Dance Program, which has since grown into a unique educational platform and a partnership network of 50+ ballet schools across the United States. The program offers opportunities for children aged five and older to perform on major stages and participate in professional productions alongside international ballet artists. This project has become transformative for regional studios in the U.S., opening thousands of new pathways for young dancers.

In 2023, became the Producer and Artistic Director of We Dance Production, Inc., significantly expanding the scale of the organization's work: the number of annual productions increased from 72 to 150+ shows per year, making the company one of the largest touring ballet organizations in North America.

Today Artem is the Founder and Artistic Director of the International Ballet Stars Grand North America Tour 2025-2026, bringing together dancers from over 12 countries, including Ukraine, Italy, Spain, Japan, France, Russia, Tajikistan, Moldova, Armenia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

International Ballet Stars have performed in some of the most prestigious theaters in the U.S., including the Music Hall in Detroit, Austin's Bass Concert Hall, Long Beach's Terrace Theater, San Diego's Balboa Theatre, and dozens of others.

Recognized for psychological resilience, leadership, deep knowledge of the classical repertoire, crisis management situations, ability to build world-class level professional ensembles, and unique skills in mentoring and developing dancers' artistic and technical potential.

Ekaterina Vaganova-Yachmennikova

Founder and Producer of International Ballet Stars

Ekaterina Vaganova-Yachmennikova graduated from the Moscow University of Culture, specializing in Promotion and Production of Cultural Public Programs. She began developing the We Dance Program in 2021 to include around 25 ballet studios participating in Classical Arts Entertainment productions. Under her leadership, the program has continued to expand, reaching 50 ballet Host Studios across the U.S. and Canada for the 2025–2026 season. This unique program allows ballet students of ages 5+ to perform with the professional ballet companies and gain a one-in-a-lifetime educational and cultural experience.

In 2023, Ekaterina became the co-producer and co-founder of We Dance Production, Inc., alongside Michael Art. They have grown the North America ballet tour from 72 to 150 performances across the United States, creating one of the largest classical ballet tours in North America. As a producer, she has been instrumental across multiple departments — from marketing and strategic planning to production coordination — and is presenting the International Ballet Stars Grand North America Tour 2025–2026, which will feature over 150 performances in the US & Canada.



Ekaterina's lifelong mission has been to popularize dance in all its forms. She began dancing at the age of 2.5 years and devoted 20 years to professional ballroom dance, earning titles such as three-time World Champion, two-time Champion of Russia, five-time Champion of Italy, Champion of Ukraine, and World Cup winner. She has also worked with celebrities as a teacher and choreographer in such TV formats, as Dancing With The Stars in Italy (2012–2017) on RaiUno channel, Dancing With The Stars in Russia (2009), and So You Think You Can Dance Russia (2015–2016) on TNT channel, working with stars like Bobo Vieri, Sergio Assisi, Kirill Pletnev, Valerio Aspromonte, Michele Morrone, Marco Del Vecchio, Bruno Cabrerizo, Anton Panufnik, and others. She was also part of the renowned TV format Midnight Run on Channel One Russia, performing alongside popular singers and presenters Alexey Chumakov and Timur Rodriguez, and hosting celebrities such as Alexey Yagudin, Viktoria Bonya, Dmitry Shepelev, Boris Moiseev, and many others.

As the owner of two dance studios We Dance Academies in Brevard County (2017–2022) with 250+ students, Ekaterina raised Florida and international dance champions and staged professional ballet productions. Ekaterina and Artem Yachmennikov founded and directed Melbourne City Ballet Theatre, producing landmark productions such as Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Cinderella at the King Center for the Performing Arts, which received widespread acclaim and grant support from the Brevard Cultural Alliance, Space Coast Office of Tourism, and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Fluent in Italian, Spanish, English, Russian, and Ukrainian, Ekaterina continuously advances her expertise, combining her experience as a dance educator and organizer with her work as a visionary producer of world-class cultural events.



Principal dancers







Sergei Zdanschi

Principal Dancer

Biography

Sergei Zdanschi, born on January 11, 2000, in Chisinau, Moldova, has made a name for himself in ballet thanks to his powerful artistry and technical skills. He graduated from the Colegiul Național de Coregrafie in 2019, where he trained under the esteemed Andrey Litvinov, whose guidance helped shape Sergei's unique expression and precision in movement.

His professional career began in 2017 when he joined the ballet troupe at the Chisinau Theater. By 2019, Sergei's remarkable talent earned him the title of Leading Ballet Soloist in Dnipro, Ukraine, where he captivated audiences with his debut as Siegfried in Swan Lake. His performances have since taken him around the globe, with invitations to perform in countries including France, Germany, Spain, China, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland, showcasing his passion and elegance to international audiences.

Awards

Recognized for his exceptional talent, Sergei has been a laureate of several prestigious ballet competitions:

- Riga Spring – Grand Prix Winner
- Vienna International Competition – 2nd Place
- Romania Crystal Swan – 1st Place
- Italy International Competition – 1st Place

With his refined technique and powerful stage presence, Sergei Zdanschi is a rising star who is celebrated for his deep artistic interpretation and dedication to the craft of ballet. Audiences worldwide eagerly await his next performance as he continues to captivate with each role he takes.



Ilona Baitler

Principal Dancer

Biography

Ilona Baitler was born in Ukraine, in the city of Dnipro, on January 27, 2002.

I'm a 4th year student at the Dnepropetrovsk Theater and Art College. Also, this year, I am graduating from the Dnepropetrovsk school of classical dance.

Teacher-Dubrovina E.A.

Since 2020, she has been admitted to the ballet troupe of the Classical Arts Entertainment in the position of the 2nd category.

As a company member and the combined ballet troupes, she was on tour in France, Germany, Switzerland, and Poland.

Awards

- "Thought -Stream" 2017 (Kiev) 2nd place
- "Thought -Stream" 2018 (Kiev) 2nd place
- Slobozhanske Kolo 2018 (Kharkov) 1st place
- "Best Fest" 2015 (Kharkov) 1st place
- "Ballet Seasons in Odessa" 2021 (Odessa) 1st place



Oleksii Kniazkov

Principal Dancer

Biography

Principal dancer of Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after N.V.Lysenko (Ukraine);

Born in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Since childhood, Oleksii had a great passion for dance. He started his dancing path with ballroom dancing. He didn't miss a single class during his studies: "It was unthinkable for me to miss a single class, even when I was sick I could not imagine that I would miss my loved training. No matter how I felt physically I danced! I loved that so much! It was the best medicine for me!"

Education

In 2004-2008 Oleksii studied at the Choreographic School of Vadim Pisarev at the Donetsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after A.Solovyanenko (Ukraine).

In 2013 Oleksii graduated from Kharkiv State Academy of Culture, Contemporary Choreography Department (Ukraine);

Danced with Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after N.V.Lysenko (Ukraine 2013-2022)

United Ukrainian Ballet company (The Netherlands 2022-2024)

Throughout his career, he danced with various projects at hundreds of theater venues in the USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Austria, Germany, Poland, Greece, Spain, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Israel, Japan, China, Taiwan, Mexico, etc.

Awards

- Grand Prix of International Dance Competition Hellas (Greece 2018)
- Best duet of Ukraine award (IBF BalletUA 2021)



Diana Stetsenko

Principal Dancer

Biography

Diana Stetsenko was born in Kyiv, Ukraine on April 17, 2001.

She began professionally studying ballet at the age of 7 at the School of Arts in Kyiv. At the age of 12, she entered the Kyiv State Choreographic School and graduated in 2019.

After graduation, she joined the Lviv National Opera. Since 2020, she began working at the National Opera of Ukraine.

In 2022, she received a contract with the Semperoper Dresden (Germany).

Since 2023, she joined the Grand Kyiv Ballet as a leading dancer.

Since 2025, she has been admitted to the ballet troupe of the Classical Arts Entertainment.

Finalist of the international classical and contemporary choreography competition "Mysul-Potok" (Kyiv, 2016) and the Grand Prix Kyiv International Ballet Festival (Kyiv, 2019).

She has toured in such countries as: Germany, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Iceland, Estonia.

Repertoire:

"Forest Song" Mavka

"The Nutcracker" Clara, Chinese doll, Spanish doll

"The Snow Queen" Gerda

"Sleeping Beauty" Aurora

"Swan Lake" Odette, Little swans, Pas de trois, brides

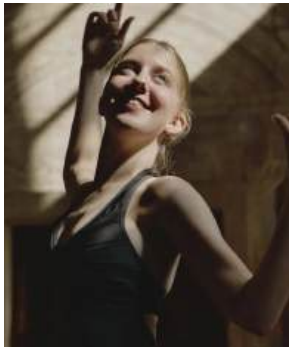
"Don Quixote" Kitri's friends, Cupid, Street dancer

"Giselle" Myrtha, Peasant Pas de deux.

Soloists



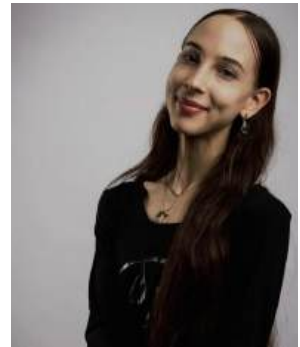
**Ana
Oleinic**



**Anna
De Muri**



**Edgar
Samvelyan**



**Kasia
Wola**



**Vasiuk
Maria**



**Shuko
Tayama**

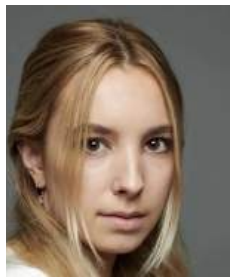


**Ide
Yumeko**

Company's members



**David
Wall**



**Ella
Slingsby**



**Finlay
Watson**



**Ivan
Kovalenko**



**Izabela
Fortes**



**Layla Proietti
Bovi**



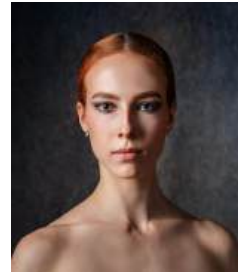
**Pablo Navarro
Gonzalez**



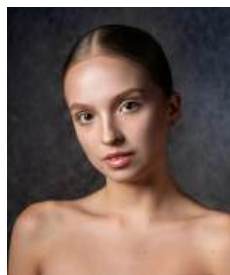
**Vidloha
Stanislav**



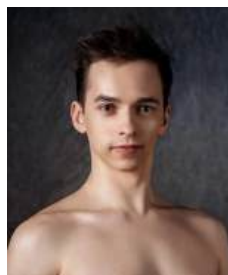
**Viyaleta
Dolas**



**Brown
Milena**



**Pichuhina
Marharyta**



**Yatsyk
Yulian**



Since 2019 until present time, International Ballet Stars has been working on engaging the studios all over the country with the We Dance Program.

The Program has grown into a 50+ Partner Studios that perform throughout the tour every year. International Ballet Stars casts student dancers ages 5-18 in ancillary roles performing alongside the professional ballet dancers. A wide variety of parts for young dancers is offered during the Grand National Tour 2025/2026.

Vaganova-trained Professional Ballet Dancer, We Dance Program Director and Producer, Mr. Artem Yachmennikov, is integral to the success of the student dancers who perform beside the pros in the Nutcracker, Snow White & Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty & Swan Lake! Mr. Artem was the first soloist with the world famous Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, a soloist at The Mariinsky Theater (Kirov) in St.Petersburg and a principal dancer at the Dutch National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. Under his attentive guidance the local Partner Studios of We Dance Program will audition and rehearse over 5000 local ballet students this coming season 25/26 through the troupe's cities on the Winter & Spring tours all over the United States, helping to prepare them for their successful performance alongside International Ballet Stars company of 55 professional ballet dancers!



Our shows

