

Evergreen City Ballet's Premiere of *Cinderella* The Classic Fairytale



Raleigh Peregrine as Cinderella and Kyle Johnson as the Prince, photo by Eryn Jay Photography.

Evergreen City Ballet (ECB) performed a newly choreographed *Cinderella* to audiences at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center from March 17 – 19, 2017. Using the traditional Sergei Prokofiev score, Artistic Director Gillmer Duran, with the help of his wife Dubraskha Arrivillaga who also teaches at ECB, choreographed *Cinderella* in only six weeks. The duo are former professional dancers and acclaimed teachers. *Cinderella* was performed as a full-length ballet and in a one-hour format to appeal to younger audiences. The ballet also featured gorgeous new costumes handmade by Carlene Balcomb-Bartok, ECB's Wardrobe Mistress.

The cast of *Cinderella*, comprised mainly of Evergreen City Ballet students, included dancers from the ages of nine to nineteen who performed as forest animals, fairies, court ladies, and

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more. The lead role of Cinderella was danced by high school students Jordan Kasube and Raleigh Peregrine while guest artist Kyle Johnson played the role of the Prince. Other key roles in the ballet were performed by students Jamie Castillo, Sydney Jones, Serena Martin, and Alexandra Montgomery who shared the roles of the Evil Stepsisters; Meagan McCollum and Mackenna Malady played the Evil Stepmother; Guest artist Arthur Vasquez played the part of the Father; and Mackenzie Jones and Sarah Cunliffe shared the glittering role of Fairy Godmother.

The classic story was beautifully told through the choreography and acting of current ECB students. Artistic Director, Gillmer Duran said this about the creative process: “Working with the PD’s was very exciting. I partnered with some of them for the first time and it was a fun process! Dubraskha and I have danced two or three different versions of *Cinderella* and had staged one version that wasn’t our own. So it was important for us to do something unique and relevant but also pass on the knowledge and the value that we have collected throughout our previous experiences. It was great for me to see the smiles on their faces when they realized what they were actually doing. Many of them didn’t know how the production was going to be, but together we were able to present a great show for our families and revive an old story through a new language and the results were great.”

Performance division dancer Jordan Kasube had this to say about dancing the lead role of Cinderella: “I loved every moment of performing Cinderella, I’m so grateful to have the experience of performing for a wide range of audience members. By enjoying every second dancing everything tends to fall in place, it doesn’t feel as though I am acting anymore, Cinderella was me and I became Cinderella. Having that interaction with the audience afterwards makes me feel as though I have done something right.”

Audiences members young and old were enthralled with the ballet. From the dancing to the sets and costumes, patrons and season sponsors had wonderful things to say:

Debbie Marlow of Marlow Jewelers in Issaquah and a season sponsor for Evergreen City Ballet had this to say, “I thought it was so well done and the performers were so darling at every age group! The costumes were fantastic! I was really impressed! You can count on me to sponsor again next season.”

“I brought my granddaughter and her friend and it was incredible to see two young people sit so still throughout the entire performance. Their eyes were glued to the dancers on stage and could not stop talking about it afterwards! Thank you for a magical evening!” – Audience Member.

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To participate with this talented group of choreographers and dancers, please join ECB this summer for the Summer Intensive for ages 10+. To audition for the Summer Intensive call 425.228.6800 or attend a Saturday ballet class at ECB from 11am – 1pm (except 4/15).

Younger students can participate in theme-oriented weekly Dance Camps in Bellevue and Renton. Camps themes include: Cinderella, Swan Lake, Frozen, and Fairy Friends! Visit www.evergreencityballet.org to see the full schedule of Summer Dance Camps and to register!