South Bay Ballet Arts

Coppélia



Saturday November 14, 2026 • 6:30pm
Sunday November 15, 2026 • 12:30pm
Campbell Heritage Theatre

South Bay Dance Center

Coppélia

** ** ** **

Based on the story by ……..……. E.T.A. Hoffman

Music ……..…… Léo Delibes

Original Choreography ……. Arthur Saint-Léon, Marius Petipa, Enrico Cecchetti

Additional Choreography ……..... Kit Ashleigh-Dean, Joey Dean, Matthew Dean, David Fonnegra, Jennifer Hansen, Camden Peoples, Payton Zemaitis

Artistic Director …… Kit Ashleigh-Dean

Assistant Directors ……. Monica Collins, Jennifer Hansen

Rehearsal Assistants …….. Abigail Starbird, Tami Rota

Studio Manager …… Cathy Dickey

Student Helpers …...……..… Brooke Castagnoli, Miya Garo, Charlotte Harrison, Mary Hutton, Meredith Seeba, Elyse Wilson

Costume Design ……. Sue Gresch, Celeste Hewitt, Rhosie Koopmans, Katie Lake, Linda Lozano, Deborah Lund

Set Design …….. Dennis Cima, Celeste Hewitt, Jeff Long

Program and T-shirt Design ..……..…….……. Jan Herbert

Company Photographs ……..…….……. Jan Herbert

Studio Photography ……..……. Joe Reghitto

Videographer .....……. Joe Reghitto

Rehearsal Photography …… Joe Reghitto, Morgen Sagen

A Note from the Director

It has been a pleasure to put together this year's production of *Coppélia*. As many of you are aware, our South Bay Ballet Arts company, along with our South Bay Dance Center students, has established a tradition of performing Nutcracker every other year. On the alternate years we perform various story ballets. We previously performed *Coppélia* in 2001, 2013 and 2019. The ballet of *Coppélia* has always been a personal favorite of mine. Although most classic ballets have comedic moments, the story of *Coppélia* is filled with humor and happiness. Our cast is challenged not only with the technical aspects of this particular ballet, but also with the pantomime and acting that are a fundamental tradition in classical ballet.

As always, our cast is young. The average age of our South Bay Dance Center students performing today is 11.7 and the average age of our company members is just 15.6. Our South Bay Ballet Arts soloists appear to be professional adults in their performance, but even they average in at just 16.3. The age of our cast, however, does not reflect their ability. Although all aspects of putting a production together present difficulty, when working with a young cast the biggest challenge is in the memorization and repetition of choreography. When possible, we have stayed true to the original choreography of Arthur Saint-Léon. Although some of the dancers in "Waltz of the Hours" and other corps pieces have danced *en pointe* for just one season, they are performing original choreography. The original choreography being performed by our company dancers is the same choreography done by professional dancers around the world when they perform *Coppélia*. The growth that our young cast has shown over the last fourteen weeks has been incredible! The process of stumbling through steps in the first few rehearsals to today's final product has been a growing experience for every dancer involved.

Our young dancers never fail to impress, to inspire, to make me fall in love with what I do again and again. I am not the only one captivated by the South Bay Dance Center youngsters. Our South Bay employees and teachers have rallied to work beyond their normally scheduled hours in order to run rehearsals, to work on schedules, and to attend to the many details of putting on a production. We have a team of volunteers who have sewn, glued, hammered, and painted for the past two months. These wonderful friends of dance have stayed within our modest budget as they created hundreds of costumes, props and sets that rival the quality and designs of professional companies. All of our volunteers---our dance angels---have put their time and talents into every product so that each child on our stage sparkles and shines.

As I look across the faces of our cast members during notes at the end of each run through, I recall when the most senior dancers were our youngest performers and I am both thankful and hopeful: thankful for our SBDC family past and present, and hopeful for the years to come. What a privilege it is to be involved in a profession that brings such joy to so many people. Please enjoy our fourth production of *Coppélia*.

With love and gratitude,
Kit Ashleigh-Dean

Coppélia

Act I, Scene I The Village Square

It is the day before the town festival. Village children are decorating the Town Square in anticipation of the next day's festivities. Swanilda appears and begins to play with the children. On the balcony of Dr. Coppélius sits his beautiful daughter, Coppélia. Swanilda tries to get Coppélia's attention but is ignored. Hearing someone approaching, Swanilda quickly hides. It is her boyfriend, Franz. He begins to approach Swanilda's home, but his glance travels to the beautiful Coppélia. He blows her a kiss. Coppélia turns toward Franz and blows a kiss back to him. Swanilda, who has been watching this whole time, comes out and scolds Franz for his conduct. Franz protests his innocence, but Swanilda declares she will have nothing more to do with him.

More villagers begin to enter the Town Square to perform dances in celebration of the festival. They dance a great Mazurka and a Harvest Waltz. Dr. Coppélius brings his daughter, Coppélia, out to the square. She dances beautifully and enchants all of the villagers, except Swanilda.

Some of Swanilda's friends dance a Czardas to brighten her mood. The mayor enters to announce that the dedication of a bell for the clock tower will happen during the festival. Couples married during the festival will receive a dowry. The mayor whispers to Swanilda to see if she will be married; she tells him she is unsure. Suddenly, there is a noise from Dr. Coppélius's home. He comes out flustered from an explosion in his workshop. The villagers are afraid, but they are also intrigued as to the contents of his mysterious home.

The mayor convinces Swanilda and Franz to test their love with a stalk from an ear of wheat. According to tradition, if the stalk makes a noise when shaken, it will tell Swanilda that Franz's love is true. The stalk is silent and Swanilda is upset. Franz leaves in a bad mood. Swanilda's friends convince her to join them as they dance.

Act I, Scene II Entering the Workshop

As evening approaches Dr. Coppélius exits his home. Some of the village boys begin to tease and taunt him. The commotion causes him to drop his keys. On her way home, Swanilda passes through the Town Square and finds the door keys. She convinces her friends to enter Dr. Coppélius's mysterious home with her. Just as they enter, Dr. Coppélius returns. He searches for his lost key. He is unable to find his key, but realizes his door is open and follows the girls inside. Franz appears and sees the beautiful Coppélia sitting on her balcony. He is determined to get to know this beauty. He finds a ladder and begins to climb up into a window of the workshop.

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Intermission

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Act II Dr. Coppélius's Workshop

Mechanical dolls and toys are everywhere in the dimly lit workshop. Swanilda and her friends enter the room fearful of the toys and the dark. Swanilda pulls a curtain and discovers Coppélia sitting reading her book. The friends fear they have been discovered. Swanilda tries to talk to Coppélia but gets no answer. She puts her head to Coppélia's heart and discovers it is not beating. Coppélia is a doll! Swanilda and her friends are delighted by this revelation. No longer afraid, they begin to set the dolls in motion. They discover Spanish Dolls, Jester Dolls, Scottish Dolls, and Toy Soldiers and begin to dance with the toys. Just then, Dr. Coppélius comes storming in; he stops the dolls as the girls hide. Swanilda hides behind the curtain.

Dr. Coppélius hears a noise in his workshop: it is Franz. Franz has come to declare his love for Coppélia. Dr. Coppélius proposes that they drink a glass of wine together. Franz accepts. Dr. Coppélius mixes a sleeping potion into the wine but he himself does not drink the poison. Soon, Franz falls into a deep sleep.

Dr. Coppélius brings out his Book of Spells, and Coppélia. He plans to capture Franz's soul in order to give it to his doll. To the doctor's delight, Coppélia begins to walk unattended and soon loses her rigidity and dances and laughs. As she dances around the workshop she manages to revive Franz. Dr. Coppélius realizes he must have been tricked. It is really Swanilda. She disguised herself in Coppélia's clothing as she hid behind the curtain. Swanilda and Franz manage to escape. Dr. Coppélius retrieves the real Coppélia, still only a lifeless doll.

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Pause

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Act III The Village Festival

The morning hours are announced: the day of the festival is here! The bell is raised over the Town Square during a March of the Villagers. Aurora, goddess of the morning, appears. Piety, goddess of prayer, enters to bless the day. Felicity, goddess of happiness, arrives in celebration. Swanilda and Franz are to be married this day. As the morning hours pass, it is time for the Spinners and Weavers to begin their daily chores in preparation for the wedding. Bakers arrive to bake a wedding cake. Patience and Charity, patrons of wedding virtues, perform a duet to begin the festivities.

The Bridesmaids, Flower Girls and Ring Bearers enter and the wedding of Swanilda and Franz begins. The two sweethearts are married and receive their promised dowry. Dr. Coppélius appears and demands compensation for his ruined workshop. Swanilda and Franz feel pity for him and give him their dowry. The Mayor then presents the couple with another bag of coins. All are happy and the villagers join the newly married couple in a galop as the finale for this grand festival day.

Cast

In Order of Appearance

Prologue …… Hayleigh Babcock, Hana Cohen, Zachary Lysik, Jennifer Pham, Denise Reghitto, Courtney Yang

Village Children ……Idris Chau, Keira Chiu, Roc Coll i Pique, Stella Diaz, Charlotte Harrison, Grace Haskett, James Haskett, Mary Hutton

Coppélia …… Hayleigh Babcock

Dr. Coppélius …… Matthew Dean

Swanilda …….. Charlotte Zink

Franz …… Camden Peoples

Mazurka (Red) ..... Hayleigh Babcock, Brooke Castagnoli, Hana Cohen, Miya Garo, Aibileen Lin, Zachary Lysik, Alayna Miller, Teagan Morgensen, Jennifer Pham, Denise Reghitto, Elyse Wilson, Courtney Yang

Mazurka (Green)..... Natalie Ansaldo, Keira Chiu, Anais Gonzales, Charlotte Harrison, Mary Hutton, Callie Moore, Meredith Seeba, Courtney Wilson

Mazurka (Blue) ..... Amirah Ben Abdellahi, Idris Chau, Roc Coll i Pique, Stella Diaz, Peyton Do, Grace Haskett, James Haskett, Natalie Yang

Mazurka (Purple)..... Sabrina Alise, Madison Chiu, Lau Coll i Pique, Leonardo Ferrante, Penelope Frawley, Paige Hansen, Mila Levitan, Scarlett Piña

Harvest Waltz (Red)..... Isabella Almeida, Amirah Ben Abdellahi, Idris Chau, Keira Chiu, Madison Chiu, Roc Coll i Pique, Stella Diaz, Peyton Do, Miroslava Gorbunova, Grace Haskett, James Haskett, Ava Mejia, Callie Moore, Lana Shapiro, Claire Wallinger, Courtney Wilson, Natalie Yang

Harvest Waltz (Green) ..... Sabrina Alise, Penelope Frawley, Paige Hansen, Katherine Lenhardt, Sienna McKinley, Kendra Moore, Scarlett Piña, Emma Wallis

Harvest Waltz (Yellow)…...Samantha Almeida, Isabella Angeles, Aly Freitas, Amelie Gonzales, Yessenia Gorbunova, Lainey Lawson, Kiara Lomelí, Anya Pejic

Harvest Waltz Quartet ……Miya Garo, Aibileen Lin, Teagan Morgensen, Elyse Wilson

Swanilda's Friends ..... Brooke Castagnoli, Hana Cohen, Aibileen Lin, Alayna Miller, Jennifer Pham, Denise Reghitto, Elyse Wilson, Courtney Yang

Franz's Friend …… Zachary Lysik

Czardas Duo ..... Brooke Castagnoli, Zachary Lysik

Czardas ……Natalie Ansaldo, Keira Chiu, Miya Garo, Anais Gonzales, Charlotte Harrison, Mary Hutton, Teagan Morgensen, Meredith Seeba

Mayor ..... Joan Coll Margarit

Village Boys.....Lau Coll i Pique, Roc Coll i Pique, Leonardo Ferrante, James Haskett

Swanilda and Franz's Friends in the Workshop……Hana Cohen, Zachary Lysik, Alayna Miller, Jennifer Pham, Denise Reghitto, Courtney Yang

Mechanical Dolls..... Sabrina Alise, Amirah Ben Abdellahi, Roc Coll i Pique, Paige Hansen, Grace Haskett, James Haskett, Scarlett Piña, Lana Shapiro, Claire Wallinger, Emma Wallis, Courtney Wilson, Natalie Yang

Jack-in-the-Box ..... Tami Rota

Teddy Bears ..... Miroslava Gorbunova, Sienna McKinley

Ballerina Dolls .....Brooke Castagnoli, Keira Chiu, Charlotte Harrison, Mary Hutton

Spanish Dolls ..... Miya Garo, Teagan Morgensen

Jesters .....Isabella Almeida, Idris Chau, Madison Chiu, Stella Diaz, Peyton Do, Grace Haskett, Mila Levitan

Scottish Dolls .....Aibileen Lin, Elyse Wilson

Toy Soldiers ..... Natalie Ansaldo, Anais Gonzales, Callie Moore, Meredith Seeba

Waltz of the Hours ..... Hayleigh Babcock, Brooke Castagnoli, Hana Cohen, Miya Garo, Charlotte Harrison, Aibileen Lin, Alayna Miller, Teagan Morgensen, Jennifer Pham, Denise Reghitto, Elyse Wilson, Courtney Yang

Village March……. Isabella Almeida, Natalie Ansaldo, Amirah Ben Abdellahi, Idris Chau, Madison Chiu, Stella Diaz, Peyton Do, Anais Gonzales, Grace Haskett, Mila Levitan, Callie Moore, Meredith Seeba, Lana Shapiro, Claire Wallinger, Courtney Wilson, Natalie Yang

Aurora .....Denise Reghitto

Piety .....Hana Cohen

Felicity .....Jennifer Pham

Spinners and Weavers Soloist…….. Alayna Miller

Spinners and Weavers.....Brooke Castagnoli, Miya Garo, Aibileen Lin, Elyse Wilson

Bakers ..... Sabrina Alise, Samantha Almeida, Isabella Angeles, Lau Coll i Pique, Leonardo Ferrante, Penelope Frawley, Aly Freitas, Amelie Gonzales, Yessenia Gorbunova, Paige Hansen, Lainey Lawson, Katherine Lenhardt, Kiara Lomelí, Kendra Moore, Anya Pejic, Scarlett Piña, Emma Wallis

Patience & Charity…….. Zachary Lysik, Courtney Yang

Bridesmaids ..... Hayleigh Babcock, Keira Chiu, Miya Garo, Mary Hutton, Aibileen Lin, Alayna Miller, Teagan Morgensen, Elyse Wilson

Flower Girls…… Sabrina Alise, Isabella Almeida, Amirah Ben Abdellahi, Idris Chau, Madison Chiu, Stella Diaz, Peyton Do, Miroslava Gorbunova, Grace Haskett, Mila Levitan, Sienna McKinley, Callie Moore, Lana Shapiro, Claire Wallinger, Courtney Wilson, Natalie Yang

Ring Bearers .....Roc Coll i Pique, Leonardo Ferrante, James Haskett

Garland Dancers…… Natalie Ansaldo, Anais Gonzales, Charlotte Harrison, Meredith Seeba

Grand Pas de Deux…… Camden Peoples, Charlotte Zink

South Bay Ballet Arts

Regional Ballet Company of San Jose

The regional Ballet Company South Bay Ballet Arts was established in 2004. The company provides both high-quality dance education and professional performance opportunities for its members, with the primary purpose of developing professional level dancers. Following the tradition of the high standards already present at South Bay Dance Center, South Bay Ballet Arts provides a valuable learning experience for serious ballet students; with its first-class productions, the company enriches the cultural life of our community.

Soloists

Zachary Lysik
Camden Peoples
Courtney Yang
Charlotte Zink

Members

Hayleigh Babcock
Brooke Castagnoli
Hana Cohen
Miya Garo
Aibileen Lin
Alayna Miller
Teagan Morgensen
Jennifer Pham
Denise Reghitto
Elyse Wilson

