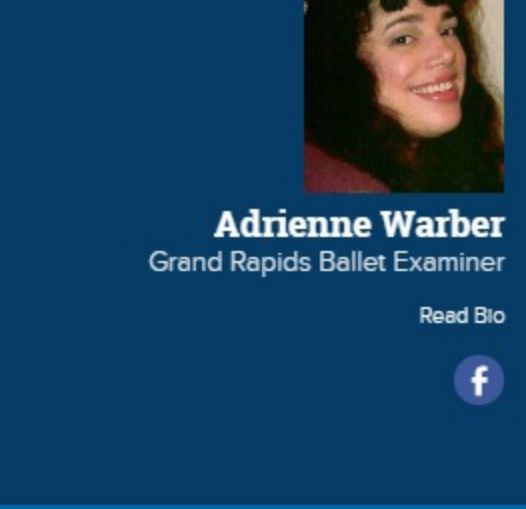


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Adrienne Warber Grand Rapids Ballet Examiner

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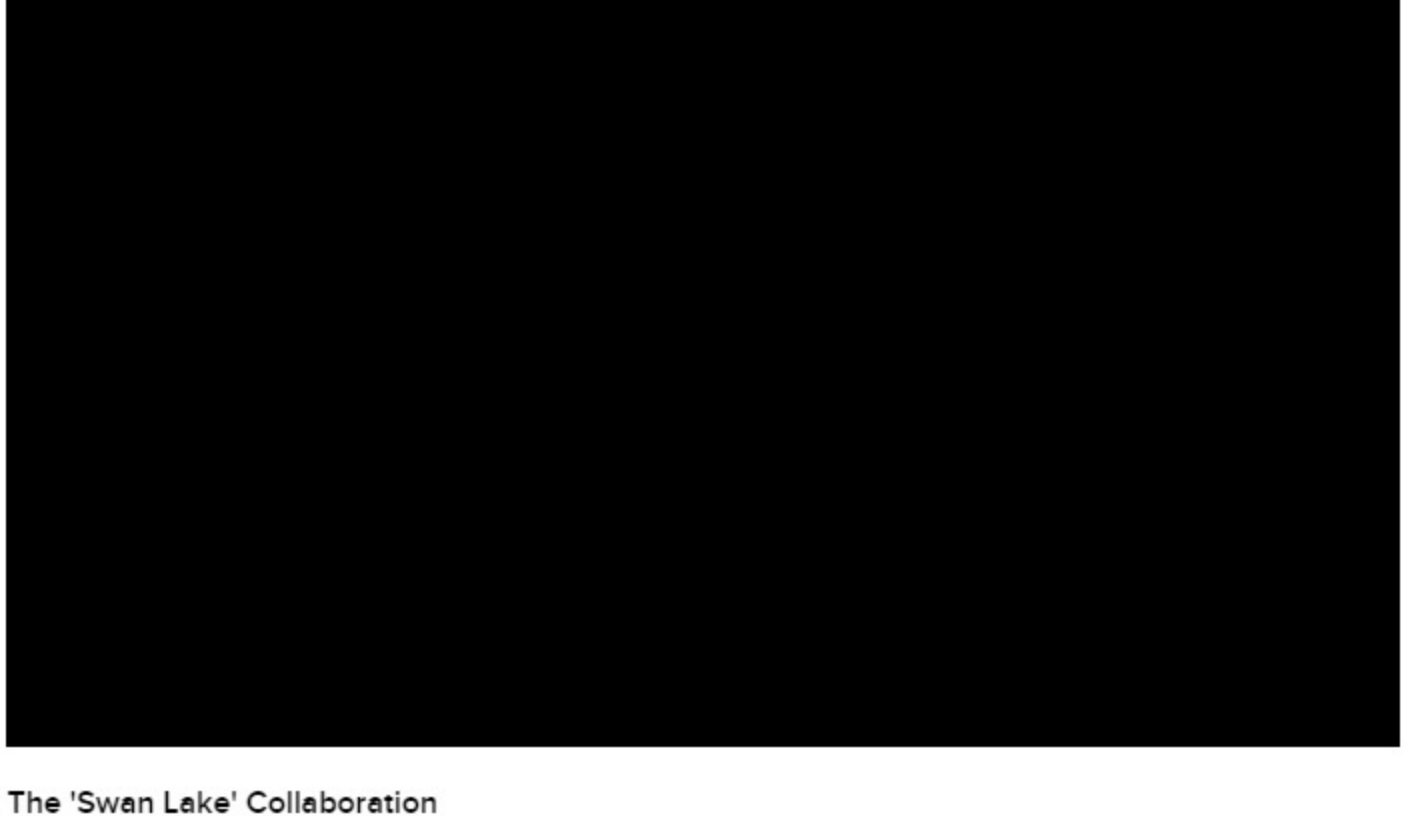
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February 7, 2015 8:54 PM MST



"Swan Lake" is a beloved classic ballet.

If there was one word to describe last night's performance of Grand Rapids Ballet's "Swan Lake," it is radiant. Every last detail from the dancing and staging to the costumes and the set was exquisite and demonstrates the exceptional professional talent of Grand Rapids Ballet.



The 'Swan Lake' Collaboration

The 2014-15 Season production of "Swan Lake" is a traditional performance of the ballet. Grand Rapids Ballet last performed "Swan Lake" in 2006. This year's production is unique in the fact that it is a collaboration between Artistic Director Patricia Barker, Creative Director Michael Auer, and Junior over the years...

Dancing and Staging

Ballet done well communicates both a story and an emotion to the audience. Grand Rapids Ballet dancers expressed the story of "Swan Lake" beautifully. The principal dancers Dawnell Dryja (Odette/Odile) and Nicholas Schultz (Prince Siegfried) and the corps de ballet showed a full spectrum of emotions in the roles and danced with flawless technique.

The dual role of Odette/Odile is always challenging because it requires a dancer to express an entirely different persona in each role - Odette is gentle and graceful while Odile is seductive and sensual. Odile also has one of the most difficult dance moves in the show when she must perform 32 fouettes in Act III.

Costumes and Set

When the curtain rose, the audience was immediately transported to Renaissance era Germany through an ornate set depicting royal court life for Acts I and III, and the lake in the woods for Acts II and IV. The period costumes were colorful and lovely. The sumptuous costumes and set added to the overall beauty of the performance.

Audience Reaction

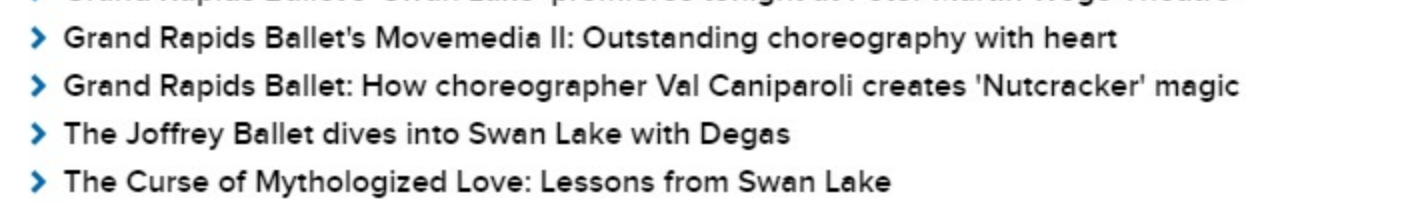
It was a full house. The audience boasted couples of all ages, families with children and ballet students. Some were seeing "Swan Lake" for the first time, while others were revisiting an old favorite. From the first scene of "Swan Lake" to the moment the curtain closed on the final scene, the audience was held in thrall to the emotion of the moment, the beauty of the music, and the power of the story.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- Grand Rapids Ballet's 'Swan Lake' premieres tonight at Peter Martin Wege Theatre
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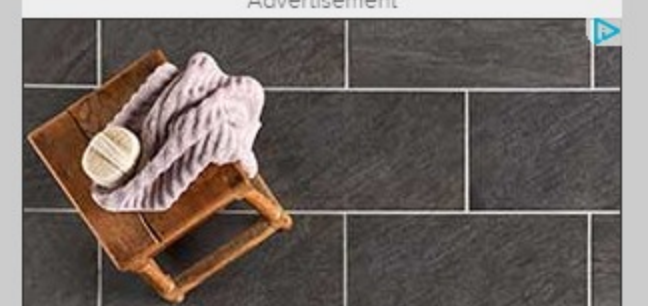
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