GUIDE TO THE BALLET

Come to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center to see

NEW YORK CITY BALLET perform:

BALANCHINE SHORT STORIES

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

SPAC Gates will open at 6:00pm
Performance will begin at 8:00pm

Many thanks to M&T Bank for their additional support of Classical Kids
FOLLOW THESE 7 STEPS TO EARN A FREE LAWN PASS

■ **STEP 1:** *READ* this ballet study guide.

■ **STEP 2:** *COMPLETE* the activities on the last page.

■ **STEP 3:** If your Teacher asks you to *HAND IN* your completed activity page, carefully cut along the dotted line to separate the activity page from the guide.

■ **STEP 4:** *ATTEND* the Classical Kids assembly in your school.

■ **STEP 5:** Follow your teacher’s instructions to receive your **FREE TICKET** to New York City Ballet on Friday, July 14.

■ **STEP 6:** On July 14, **COME TO THE SARATOGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER!** GATES OPEN AT 6pm!!

■ **STEP 7:** At 8pm, **FIND YOUR SEAT IN THE THEATER** and let the New York City Ballet take you on an incredible and exciting journey with *Balanchine Short Stories*!

**EVERY STUDENT** that completes all 7 steps will earn a **CLASSICAL KIDS LAWN PASS**! This pass will allow you (and an accompanying adult) to attend **ALL CLASSICAL PERFORMANCES** (Ballet and Orchestra) at Saratoga Performing Arts Center for **FREE** until you graduate from High School!
Saratoga Performing Arts Center is a large outdoor theatre in Saratoga Springs that can hold up to 25,000 people at a single event! You can visit every summer and enjoy incredible performances by some of the best artists in the WORLD! There is something for everyone, whether you like dance, classical music, jazz music, opera, or pop concerts!

**LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR FAVORITE COMPANIES THAT VISITS THE SARATOGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVERY SUMMER... NEW YORK CITY BALLET!**

New York City Ballet is one of the best professional dance companies in the world with 100 dancers and the largest collection of ballets that were ever created for a professional ballet company. NYCB was also the first professional dance company to have TWO stages that they could call “home” - one in New York City, and one in Saratoga Springs! The company was founded in 1948 by a man named Lincoln Kirstein, and the “father of American Ballet” himself, George Balanchine. NYCB was the first company to perform on SPAC’s stage when the theater opened in 1966!
WHERE DID BALLET COME FROM?

IT’S ALL FRENCH TO ME!

Ballet began in the late 1400s in ITALY. Wealthy Italian people performed dances at social parties called “COURTS”. In 1533, an Italian woman named Catherine de Medici brought this “COURT BALLET” to the wealthiest French courts when she married the King of France himself – Henry II.

It wasn’t until 1669, more than 100 years later, that court ballet was made into a professional art form by another French King – King Louis XIV (pronounced “LOO-ee the 14th”). Louis XIV was very passionate about ballet. He enjoyed ballet so much that he decided to bring it to the stage, and he started the very first professional ballet company in the world in 1669 - The PARIS OPERA BALLET. It was here that the French names for ballet steps were created!

To learn more about these ballet steps, see the exercise on the Classical Kids Activity Page.

A CHOREOGRAPHER (PRONOUNCED “KOR-EH-AH-GRAY-FAR”) IS WHAT WE CALL THE ARTIST WHO CREATES DANCES. LET’S MEET THE FAMOUS CHOREOGRAPHER BEHIND THE BALLETS THAT YOU WILL SEE AT SPAC ON JULY 14TH THE “FATHER OF AMERICAN BALLET” HIMSELF... GEORGE BALANCHINE!

George Balanchine was a famous choreographer who was born in Russia in 1904, but he is considered to be the “father of American Ballet” because most of his greatest works were created after he came to the United States. When “Mr. B” arrived in America, the first thing he did was open the School of American Ballet. At this school, he trained dancers in the strict Russian ballet methods that he learned in his homeland. 14 years after he created the school, Balanchine began one of the greatest ballet companies in the world – New York City Ballet. He created many ballets for his dancers and was the leader of the company until his death in 1983.
THE FIREBIRD
There once was an immortal wizard, named Kastchei, whose powers were concealed in a golden egg. In the dark garden of this villain, a beautiful Firebird is captured by a Prince named Ivan. The Firebird persuades Ivan to release her in exchange for one of her magical feathers, saying that he can summon her with this feather if he is ever in trouble. Ivan releases the firebird, and then stumbles upon some princesses in the garden who are prisoners of Kastchei. The princesses warn Ivan to leave, but he refuses because he has fallen instantly in love with one of them. Kastchei appears and summons his monsters to capture Ivan! What happens next? You will have to wait and see on July 14th!

LA SONNAMBULA
French for “The Sleepwalker”, La Sonnambula tells the story of a Poet who is courting a woman at a masked ball. The Poet is left alone when the guests leave the ballroom to eat dinner. Suddenly, a beautiful sleepwalking spirit appears like a ghost. The Poet tries to talk to the spirit, but he cannot wake her. When the guests have finished their dinner, they return to the ballroom, but their Host is furious. He just discovered that the Poet has been courting his date for the evening. A fight begins between the Host and the Poet, and you will see how this brawl ends at SPAC on July 14th.

PRODIGAL SON
This ballet tells a short story from the Bible about a man with two sons. One of the sons asks for his share of his father’s estate as an early inheritance. The father gives his son the money and the son sets off on a long journey. He spends all of the money in many foolish ways. With nothing left, he cannot feed himself and he begins to starve. What the son does next is for you to discover on July 14th.
THE SWAN
A 7-MINUTE LESSON IN THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN BALLET AND HIP HOP!

“The Dying Swan” is a famous ballet that was choreographed in 1905 by the Russian choreographer, Mikhail Fokine. This 3-and-a-half minute ballet tells the story of the final moments of a beautiful swan. The music is a famous cello solo that was written in 1886 by the French composer, named Camille Saint-Saëns. The song is called “Le Cygne” (pronounced “Le Seen”), which is French for “The Swan”.

BELOW are two versions of ‘The Dying Swan” - the original version, choreographed by Fokine, and a hip hop version, choreographed and danced by Charles “Lil Buck” Riley.

WATCH BOTH DANCES AND LOOK FOR THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THEM.

INSTRUCTIONS - PART ONE
- On your computer’s web browser, visit www.Youtube.com
- Search for “The Dying Swan Plisetskaya 1975”
- Click on the first video that is listed in the search results.
- Click Play and WATCH THE VIDEO!

Pay close attention to the ballerina’s arm movements, the way that she glides gracefully across the floor, and the final moment - when she slowly folds her body down to the ground.

INSTRUCTIONS - PART TWO
- Search for “Lil Buck Swan at Vail”
- Click on the first video that is listed in the search results
- Click Play and WATCH THE VIDEO!

Pay close attention to Lil’ Buck’s arm movements, the way that he glides across the floor, and the final moment, when he slowly folds his body on the ground.

DID YOU SEE THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO DANCES?
INSTRUCTIONS: Read the clues on the left side of this page and use their answers to complete the puzzle. REMEMBER, There are NO spaces between two-word and three-word answers. (Example: Classical Kids would be filled in as CLASSICALKIDS)

ACROSS
1. The evil wizard’s name in “The Firebird”
3. The ____ ____ Ballet was created in France in 1669, and it was the 1st professional ballet company in the world!
4. Country in Europe where ballet began in the late 1400’s
6. French for “The Sleepwalker”
7. Name of the brave prince in “The Firebird” ballet
8. Catherine de Medici brought a type of dance called court ____ to wealthy French parties.
11. Ballet dancers interpret this type of music using their own bodies.
13. He is the “father of American Ballet”.
15. The gift that the Firebird gives to the prince when he agrees to set her free

DOWN
2. A ____ ____ is a ballet that tells a story with a beginning, middle, and ending.
5. An artist who creates Dances is called a ____.
9. Choreographer who created the famous ballet “The Swan” in 1905
10. New York ____ ____ is the world famous ballet company that performs at SPAC every summer.
12. French for “The Swan”
14. In 1669, this French King started the very 1st professional ballet company in the world!

Now that you are a ballet expert, it’s time to test your knowledge.

See you at the performance on July 14th!
INSTRUCTIONS: Learn the French names for the following ballet steps and then circle each ballet step in the word search puzzle below.

- TENDU (TAWN-dee)
- ARABESQUE (air-uh-BESK)
- PIROUETTE (peer-ooh-ET)
- DEMI PLIÉ (DEH-mee plee-YAY)
- GRAND BATTEMENT (GRAWN bat-MAW)
- SAUTÉ (SO-tay)
- GRAND JETÉ (GRAWN JEH-tay)
- PAS DE DEUX (Pah-dih-DUH)

Many thanks to Union College for their support of SPAC's Classical Kids Program!