

Pendleton Ballet Theatre presents 'Cinderella'

By Jennifer Colton
Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — In the days before Memorial Day, a cast of 60 dancers will bring "Cinderella" to life in Pendleton for the first time since 2015. Pendleton Ballet Theatre Director Julie Sneden Carlson said it is the perfect time to bring back this ballet.

"Cinderella is brave and kind and good, and we need that right now," she said. "We also need to laugh. We need that kind of belly laugh, and this show brings that."

"Cinderella" performances will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27, and 2 p.m. on May 28 at Blue Mountain Community College. Tickets will be available in the box office at BMCC before each show. Tickets for reserved seating are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

"Cinderella" is also a return for PBT: It is the ballet's first live spring show since 2019. Although many of the dancers participated in "The Nutcracker" in December, it is the spring show that involves

all the students from Intro to Ballet through the advanced classes.

At Pendleton Ballet Theatre, there are six levels of dancers, from those just beginning — who play Cinderella's friendly mice — to dancers with more than a decade of experience.

Although the dancers have been rehearsing for months, this year was not without its challenges. Costumes for two of the largest group pieces — Cinderella's companion mice and bluebirds — arrived last week despite being ordered in November. Sneden Carlson said the costumes are important for the dancers.

"When kids wear a really professionally done costume with all the attention to detail, they glow," she said.

The most recognizable costume in the ballet is Cinderella's blue tutu, which has more than \$800 invested in it.

"Really watch the costumes. The costumes are breathtaking," Sneden Carlson said. "I love to create beautiful costumes, and when I see the kids glow because

'CINDERELLA'

7 p.m. May 26
7 p.m. May 27
2 p.m. May 28
BMCC, Pendleton
\$10 adults, \$5 children

they're wearing an exceptional costume, it's worth burning the midnight oil."

Cori Jo Lindsay is the titular Cinderella dancing alongside her prince, Austin Ford. Rounding out the primary cast are Madison Gruenhagen as the Fairy Godmother, Chris Demianew as the Dancing Master, Samantha Mahaffy as the wicked stepmother and Lizzie Holden and Chloe



Julie Sneden Carlson/Contributed photo
Pendleton Ballet Theatre will present "Cinderella" May 26-28 at Blue Mountain Community College.

Chay as the evil stepsisters.

Sneden Carlson said the stepsisters help make the ballet one of the most humorous in the PBT repertoire.

"The stepsisters are so funny, and it's not just the stepsisters," she said. "This is a particularly good year to just come and laugh and have your heart warmed."

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