

The Antelope Valley Ballet

presents

Snow White *and the Seven Dwarfs*



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The May 2023 matinee of *Snow White* will begin at 11 am and will last one hour with no intermission.

Attending A Ballet Performance

Going to the theatre for a ballet is similar to seeing a movie:

- ❖ The lights will dim before the performance begins, and the theatre remains dark during the performance.
- ❖ Audience members are expected to remain seated during the performance.
- ❖ Photography and video recording are NOT permitted. In addition to being distracting to the dancers and other audience members, Snow White is copyrighted artistic material.
- ❖ Cell phones and electronics should be turned off when you enter the theatre.
- ❖ There is no intermission.
- ❖ Please use the restroom prior to the performance.

However, unlike the movies:

- ❖ The story is told through movements, along with music, costumes, and sets.
- ❖ Ballet is performed live. There are no second takes and dancers can react to the audience.
- ❖ Clap when you enjoy something, laugh if something is funny, and give a standing ovation at the end if it was amazing. Let the dancers know you appreciate their hard work!
- ❖ LPAC is a pretty big theater with 750 seats!
- ❖ After the performance, on your way out of the theater, you will be able to meet the dancers briefly and say hello. They do talk!

Most important ~ Enjoy the movements, music, sets, and costumes – and have fun!

About *Snow White*



Book cover of Grimm's Fairy Tales 1812 edition.



Illustration by Franz Jüttner (1905-1910).



Photo of Marguerite Clark as Snow White in the 1912 Winthrop Ames Broadway play.



Poster for Walt Disney's 1937 feature film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Snow White is one of the most famous fairy tales, and of course, was the subject of the very first Disney feature film in 1937 – *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The most well-known written version was by the Brothers Grimm in 1812. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm wrote many collections of fairy tales in the 19th Century, which included *Snow White*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Frog Prince*, and *Rapunzel*. The stories, previously shared aloud for generations, were preserved through Grimms' written work. The story of *Snow White* has inspired many works of art, including film, music, theater, paintings, and dance.

The Story of Snow White

Prologue The Evil Queen asks the mirror, “Who is the Fairest of Them All?” The answer is Snow White, who is dancing with her bird friends and meets Prince Ferdinand.

Scene 1 In the Evil Queen’s castle, the royal courtiers gather. They vie for the Queen’s attention but have fun with Snow White. The Queen is jealous of Snow White and orders one of her huntsmen to take Snow White into the woods, cut her heart out, and return it to her in a box.

Scene 2 The huntsman walks with Snow White in the woods. He tries to do the Queen’s bidding but is too fond of Snow White to hurt her. He tells her to run away. It is nighttime and the woods are scary. Snow White is afraid of the shadows that seem to follow her. At dawn the woodland animals come out, making her feel safe. They show her to the home of the Dwarfs.

Scene 3 The Dwarfs come home to find their dwelling clean and tidy. They find Snow White there and decide that she can stay. The Evil Queen discovers that her huntsman did not do as he was told and Snow White is still alive. With a magical potion she drinks, she transforms herself into an ugly old woman and creates a poisoned apple. Snow White bites into the apple and collapses.

Scene 4 The Dwarfs and Snow White’s woodland friends gather around her in the woods. The bluebird brings Prince Ferdinand who kisses Snow White and wakes her up. She agrees to marry him.

The Story Behind the Phrase “Once Upon A Time”

“Once upon a time” is a stock phrase that has been used in some form since at least 1380 (according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*) in storytelling in the English language, and seems to have become a widely accepted convention for opening oral narratives by around 1600. These stories often then end with “... and they all lived happily ever after”, or, originally, “happily until their deaths.” These are examples of the narrative form, and occur most frequently in the narratives produced by children aged between 6 and 8.[1]

It is particularly apparent in fairytales for younger children, where it is almost always the opening line of a tale. It was commonly used in the original translations of the stories of Charles Perrault as a translation for the French *il était une fois* and of Hans Christian Andersen, or the Brothers Grimm as a translation for the German *es war einmal* (literally “it was once”).

A History of the Antelope Valley Ballet

The Antelope Valley Ballet was founded in the fall of 1998 by Kathleen Burnett and Lara Arnaiz. The mission statement for AV Ballet is to provide dancers from across the Antelope Valley region with professional quality performance opportunities in a company setting; to provide high quality performances locally and regionally, stimulating interest in and appreciation for dance as a performing art; to be a positive force in the cultural climate of the Antelope Valley and the state of California, interacting with and supporting all the arts.

Since its founding, the Antelope Valley Ballet has produced three productions each year at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, CA. We have always had morning performances for school children, home schoolers and disabled people. In addition to our productions at LPAC, we also present lecture demonstrations and smaller performances for classrooms and organizations across the Antelope Valley.

Our productions have included the classical full-length ballet *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Coppelia*, *Peter Pan*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as shorter more contemporary works seen in our Contemporary Dance series.

We are proud to have had our dancers accepted to the finest professional ballet summer programs in the United States as well as having several former company members dance professionally with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theater, Kansas City Ballet and Dayton Ballet.

The Antelope Valley Ballet has received grants from Ralph M. Parson's Foundation, Boeing, Deluxe Checks, the LPAC Foundation, and the LA County Arts Commission. We also receive very generous support from individual donors who live here in the Antelope Valley.

Snow White Artists

Choreography by Kathleen Burnett, Artistic Director

Snow White	Chloe Busbee	Sneezy	Levi Funnell
Prince Ferdinand	Peyton Gue	Dopey	Isla Hawley
Evil Queen	MaKenna Hertz	Sleepy	Nadia Smith
Ugly Evil Queen	John Brian Gaylord	Happy	Addison Pennock
Doc	Griffin Gue	Grumpy	Kylee Appleton
Bashful	Mackenzie Hernandez		

Discussion

Movement:

Pre-performance Discussion:

Explain to students that ballet communicates stories, ideas, and feelings through movement. While there is a narrator in Snow White, the dancers must move and act in ways that let the audience know what their character is experiencing without talking. Ask students how they can tell if someone is angry, happy, sad, or frightened just by walking into a room.

Pre-performance Questions:

- What kinds of movements and facial expressions correspond to happiness? Anger?
- Would these movements be fast or slow? Sharp or smooth?
- What steps would you do, or expect to see, when a character is sad? Celebrating?
- Do you expect to see movements that are classical or contemporary at the ballet?

Post-performance Questions:

- Did the choreography fit the mood of each scene?
- Were there any parts of the choreography that were confusing to you? Why?
- Would you have made any changes?
- Can you create a short movement phrase/sequence inspired by what you saw?

Movement:

Pre-performance Discussion:

Costumes are important because they help to identify the characters in the story. Audiences can rely on costuming to distinguish characters. Additionally, ballet costumes have to have some special considerations so that the dancers can move freely. There are many different costumes used in Snow White - ranging from classical tutus (sticking straight out from the hips), jackets, dresses, tights, boots, capes, crowns, and hats.

Pre-performance Questions:

- What kinds of costumes do you expect to see in Snow White?
- How long do you think it would take to make so many costumes?
- What kinds of materials/considerations are important for dance clothing?
- Why do you think it is important for dancers to wear tights?

Post-performance Questions:

- What different types of costumes did you see?
- How did the costumes help tell the story?
- Which costumes were your favorites? Why?
- Which costumes would it be easiest to dance in? The most difficult?

Discussion (Continued)

Music:

Pre-performance Discussion:

The music is also an important part in telling the story. Ballet relies heavily on musical cues, not only for the audience but also for the dancers to remember the choreography and work together. You may also choose to play excerpts from the ballet, or any music, and have the students practice finding the beat—what dancers do in order to stay together!

Pre-performance Questions:

- Why do you think music is important for ballet?
- How do you know when something scary or exciting is about to happen in a movie?
- What kind of music do you expect to hear during Snow White?
- Does anyone in your class play a musical instrument? Which ones?

Post-performance Questions:

- How was the music different in each scene? The same?
- If you were creating a ballet, would you prefer to pick music that was already composed, or music that was created specifically for your choreography?

Scenery:

Pre-performance Discussion:

The set for Snow White fits with a classical, narrative ballet style, comprised of backdrops, large set pieces, dramatic lighting, and props.

Pre-performance Questions:

- What kinds of things would you build to create a forest? The Dwarfs cottage?
- What kinds of considerations might set designers need to make for ballet versus a play?
- How could a change in the lighting change the mood on stage?

Post-performance Questions:

- What did the sets look like? What types of scenery did you notice?
- What types of props were used by the Dwarfs? By the Evil Queen?
- Did the set design coordinate with the costume design?

Additional Post-performance Questions:

- Did all of the elements work together to create a successful performance?
- If you were the choreographer, how would you do it?
- What elements would you keep the same? What would you change?

Additional Resources

LITERATURE:

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| Ages 2-6: | Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
R.H. Disney
Golden/Disney, 2003 | (Little Golden Book)
ISBN: 978- 0736421866
Available at www.amazon.com |
| Ages 5-9: | Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
Square Fish; Sunburst Edition, 1987 | (Sunburst Book)
ISBN: 978- 0374468682
Available at www.amazon.com |
| Age 9 & up: | Grimm's Fairy Tales
Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
Calla Editions, 2010 | (Call Edition; original illustrations)
ISBN: 978- 1606600108
Available at www.amazon.com |

ONLINE:

<https://elgiva.com/snow-white-history/>

<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/sevendwarfs/history.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_White

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0709.html>

<http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/snowwhite.html>

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm.html> (The Brothers Grimm Home Page)

For More Information About the Antelope Valley Ballet or questions:

Go to www.antelopevalleyballet.org