

Ventura County Ballet Company to feature elite dancer in upcoming spring production, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"

By Gazette Staff Writer — Friday, March 21st, 2014



Lilit Hogtanian

VENTURA COUNTY, CA - The Ventura County Ballet Company (VCBC) will hold its annual spring ballet, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Audiences will be in awe of VCBC's dance lineup and enjoy the whimsical story of the classic fairytale.

VCBC has big plans to dazzle crowds as characters pirouette through the exciting music and the interactive complement of choreography. Young dancers will be working with top flight professionals and Ventura County Ballet's wonderful choreographer Marina Fliagina. They are given the opportunity to learn through this enhanced education of this performing art adding to their stage presence and poise. Performing her first year with VCBC, and starring as Snow White, is 21 year old Lilit Hogtanian from Los Angeles, Calif. Her passion for ballet started 15 years ago during her first ballet class at six years old with Yuri Grigoriev. "I knew at that moment I wanted to be a dancer," said Hogtanian. She has danced with Los Angeles Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. Hogtanian graduated from Academie de Danse Princesse Grace in Monaco on a full scholarship, and was a gold medalist at Youth America Grand Prix, Long Beach, Calif. She has performed Principal and Soloist roles in The Nutcracker and Waltz Fantasie, and participated in the Monaco Dance Form. She has worked with choreographers Jean-Christophe Maillot, Wayne McGregor, Robert Sund, Josie Walsh and William Soleau.

Rehearsing six days a week, Hogtanian is dedicated to prepping for her performances including for Snow White. "I really enjoy bringing a character from my childhood to life and giving the same joy I had watching this classic fairytale to the other young ones in the audience," said Hogtanian.

"We are very eager to have Lilit and the rest of the all-star cast in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," said Kathleen Noblin, Executive Director of Ventura County Ballet. "Their souls shine through every moment, and it is clear that they all love sharing their gift. Working with these professionals gives the younger dancers additional experience and confidence on stage. This ballet will leave you happy and wanting to dance."

Ballet details:

What: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" – Presented by the Ventura County Ballet When: Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Where: Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard Cost: Adults: \$25 Seniors: \$20 Child: \$15 (10 and under) Tickets: Theater Box Office: 805-486-2424; Online: www.venturacountyballet.com/Performances.html www.oxnardpacc.com

About the Ventura County Ballet Company and Ballet Academy Ventura

Celebrating its 16th year, the Ventura County Ballet Company features professional dancers as well as VCBC pre-professionals and students from Ballet Academy Ventura, the official school of the VCBC.

Kathleen Noblin, a recipient of the City of Ventura 2008 Mayor's Arts Award, founded Ballet Academy Ventura in 1992 as the official school of the Ventura County Ballet where the company is in residence. She has served as executive director of the company since its inception.

For more information, or to sponsor an upcoming ballet or educational program, call (805) 648-2080 or visit <u>www.venturacountyballet.com</u>.

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