

MAMBA SEYRA (Premiere 1991)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Sarah Cyders

Music: Bucks Fizz

Costumes: Dancers

Megan Abel, Timora Barnett, Emma Blake, Gisella Blake, Amelia Brown, Erin Ekin, Adley Grabowski, Megan Harrigan, Skylynn Heichel, Taylor Hill, Ryanne Hunt, Landon Hyatt, Peyton Hyatt, Mikayla Jarvis, Samantha Metz, Katrin Parker, Audrey Rosby, Emma Schaefer, Tara Tavallae, Rubyjean Walker, Allie Wentworth

Mira Bechtol, Julia Brauner, Addilyn Bryant, Alanah Cole, Haylee Cromer, Eva Early, Gordon Ekin, Polly Ekin, Adra Herod, Teagan Kime, Audrey Mahon, Leonardo Mancha, Isabella McArdle, Jacklyn Metz, Lyla Metzger, Mayson Middaugh, Valerie Raubenolt, Lucy Ronk, Elise Sabourin, Audrey Smith, Olivia Swartz

IT'S RAINING AGAIN (Premiere 1989)

Choreography: Mark Koehler staged by Sarah Cyders

Music: Supertramp

Costumes: Dancers

Emma Bates, Vienna Cooper, Stella Donatini, Emery Drushel, Leona Haglund, Eden Heckman, Kaylee Hull, Madeline McDonnell, Reese Roland, Anne Shenberger, Zariah Smith, Lillian VanScyoc

Lilliana Benschhoff, Brie Bradley, Karolyne Cole, Madelynn Cole, Gia Gierhart, Autumn Harpster, Karsyn Kaeser, Kennedy Newman, Keagan Parker, Evelyn Parks, Grace Shambaugh

TAMBOURINE (Premiere 2016)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd

Music: Andre Gretry

Costumes: Opus Costume Shop/Dancers

Mikayla Jarvis with Asher Brown, Milo McDonald, Isaac Smith, Nathaniel Studer
with

Mariah Barciz, Marissa Barciz, Cora Donatini, Isabella Heichel, Delaney Kruty, Ava Lorentz, Indica McQuate, Emersyn Metheney, Lilyanna Metzger, Anna Raubenolt, Elise Raubenolt, Jillian Stickney, Abby Yoak

BABY ELEPHANT WALK (Premiere)

Choreography: Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd

Music: James Galway and Henry Mancini

Costumes: Dancers

Annie Bates, Addison Bonfiglio, Mary Hamilton, Jordyn Honaker, Leonardo Mancha, Sydnee Middaugh, Madelyn Shenberger, Natalie Secrest

STRAVINSKY (Premiere 1988)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Sarah Cyders

Music: Igor Stravinsky

Costumes: Opus Costume Shop/Dancers

Note from the choreographer: This epic piece of music was composed in 1913. It is widely considered to be one of the most influential musical works of the 20th century. Regarded as among the first modernist works, the music influenced many of the 20th-century's leading composers. I choreographed it on its 75th anniversary. I wanted our dancers to be offered a chance to become acquainted with this masterpiece. I continue to be enthralled by this music and dance. My intent was to merely dance the physical embodiment of the music – note for note. If you see a story – that is fine. If you don't, that's fine, too. Just let the music and dance "wash over you" and take from it whatever it offers.

Megan Abel, Timora Barnett, Mira Bechtol, Emma Blake, Gisella Blake, Amelia Brown, Erin Ekin, Adley Grabowski, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Ryanne Hunt, Landon Hyatt, Peyton Hyatt, Mikayla Jarvis, Katrin Parker, Audrey Rosby, Emma Schaefer, Tara Tavallae, Allie Wentworth

Julia Brauner, Alanah Cole, Samantha Crist, Haylee Cromer, Eva Early, Gordon Ekin, Polly Ekin, Skylynn Heichel, Adra Herod, Teagan Kime, Audrey Mahon, Isabella McArdle, Jacklyn Metz, Samantha Metz, Lyla Metzger, Mayson Middaugh, Valerie Raubenolt, Elise Sabourin, Audrey Smith, Olivia Swartz

THE BOYS FROM NYC (Premiere 1999)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd

Music: Manhattan Transfer

Costumes: Dancers

Asher Brown, Milo McDonald, Isaac Smith, Nathaniel Studer

Mariah Barciz, Marissa Barciz, Isabella Heichel, Delaney Kruty, Emersyn Metheney, Lilyanna Metzger, Anna Raubenolt, Elise Raubenolt, Abby Yoak

Addison Bonfiglio, Abbigale Crist, Georgia Hall, Alianna Heichel, Rose Jackson, Kinsley Kline, Dylan McQuate, Adalyn Studer, Alysia Szasz-Benedek

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (Premiere 2016)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd

Music: Freed/Brown (simple piano version)

Costumes: Dancers

Annie Bates, Anna Grissinger, Mary Hamilton, Mikayla Jarvis, Jackalyn Metz, Jaime Sabourin, Madelyn Shenberger, JayLynn Smith, Jordyn Thomas

OPUS ONE (Premiere 1988)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd

Music: Oliver/Garris - Tommy Dorsey

Costumes: Opus Costume Shop

Megan Abel, Emma Blake, Gisella Blake, Amelia Brown, Erin Ekin, Adley Grabowski, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Peyton Hyatt, Katrin Parker, Audrey Rosby, Tara Tavallae, Rubyjean Walker, Allie Wentworth

Timora Barnett, Mira Bechtol, Julia Brauner, Addilyn Bryant, Alanah Cole, Haylee Cromer, Eva Early, Gordon Ekin, Polly Ekin, Skylynn Heichel, Adra Herod, Landon Hyatt, Teagan Kime, Audrey Mahon, Leonardo Mancha, Isabella McArdle, Samantha Metz, Lyla Metzger, Mayson Middaugh, Sydnee Middaugh, Valerie Raubenolt, Elise Sabourin, Emma Schaefer, Audrey Smith

INTERMISSION

THE LITTLE MERMAID (premiere 1987)

Choreography: Hellie Schussler staged by Ann Marie Benschhoff-Todd and Sarah Cyders

Original Costumes: Barbara Reed

Based on the story by Hans Christian Anderson

Scene 1 – The Mermaids ... Music: Smetana

As we meet our *Little Mermaid*, she is in the company of her sister mermaids, enjoying life in the sea to which she is so perfectly suited. But she swims a little apart, dreaming of belonging to the world of humans. She loves to watch *The Man*, whom she has often seen just out of her reach. *Queen of the Mermaids* worries and tries to convince her to be satisfied with the beautiful life she was given. *Little Mermaid* cannot be distracted from her reverie. Suddenly a terrible storm is upon them, causing the ocean to become violent. *The Man* is thrown into the deep waters and would surely drown if not for the love of *Little Mermaid*. She carries him to shore and watches as he is rescued. She vows her love to him and becomes obsessed with the idea of becoming human. Being young and naïve, she believes he will return her love if given the chance. She chooses not to follow the school of mermaids but instead to seek help in the forbidden place.

Scene 2 – Sea Witch ... Music: Saint-Saëns

Sea Witch possesses evil magic. *Little Mermaid*, desperate in her quest for true love, begs for a magic potion to transform her into a human. *Sea Witch* produces the malicious brew but not before delivering a warning – “if the one you love should marry another you will die and become foam upon the sea.” Undaunted *Little Mermaid* drinks the poison and through a painful transformation realizes her fondest wish. She is human.

Scene 3 – On the Land ... Music: Litloff; Mascagni; Saint-Saëns; Smetana

Little Mermaid is befriended by the villagers and dances with them, all the while vying for the attention of *The Man* for whom she has sacrificed so much. He, being unaware of her plight, becomes engaged to the village girl he has loved since childhood. *Sea Witch* and *Urchins* remind her of their bargain. *Little Mermaid* is frightened when she realizes that they have the power to come onto the land. *Queen of the Mermaids* urges her to return to the sea, but under the spell of evil magic, she is unable to ever be a mermaid again. In desperation she throws herself at *The Man* in a final attempt to win his love, but she is gently rejected. In the final moments of this scene *Sea Witch* produces a knife with which to kill the *Fiancé*. The turmoil delights the malevolent sorceress. With a sudden realization of the sorrow she has caused and understanding that she could never find happiness in the destruction of another life, *Little Mermaid* refuses to do the witch’s evil bidding and accepts her fate.

Scene 4 – Daughters of the Air ... Music: Chopin

In the final scene our sorrowful heroine finds redemption with *The Daughters of the Air*, who take pity on her and with goodness defeat the powers of evil. Because she showed goodness of heart she is invited to live as one of the *Daughters of the Air* forever. She gratefully accepts their gentle embrace.

Little Mermaid – Erin Ekin

The Man – Landon Hyatt

His Fiancé – Megan Abel

Sea Witch – Emma Blake

Queen of the Mermaids – Audrey Rosby

The School of Mermaids

Timora Barnett, Mira Bechtol, Amelia Brown, Addilyn Bryant, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Katrin Parker, Tara Tavallae, Allie Wentworth

The Mermaid Children

Alliyah Bensaid, Abbigale Crist, Georgia Hall, Alianna Heichel, Rose Jackson, Emma Karl, Kinsley Kline, Dylan McQuate, Payton See, Gianna Sinchok, Adalyn Studer, Alysia Szasz-Benedek

Sea Urchins

Annie Bates, Addison Bonfiglio, Alanah Cole, Samantha Crist, Haylee Cromer, Anna Grissinger, Mary Hamilton, Jordyn Honaker, Audrey Mahon, Isabella McArdle, Jackalyn Metz, Sydnee Middaugh, Madelyn Shenberger, JayLynn Smith, Olivia Swartz, Jordyn Thomas

Seaweed

Julia Brauner, Polly Ekin, Adley Grabowski, Peyton Hyatt, Emma Schaefer, Rubyjean Walker

The Villagers

Gisella Blake, Eva Early, Gordon Ekin, Skylynn Heichel, Adra Herod, Rynne Hunt, Teagan Kime, Leonardo Mancha, Samantha Metz, Lyla Metzger, Mayson Middaugh, Valerie Raubenolt, Lucy Ronk, Elise Sabourin, Audrey Smith

The Daughters of the Air

Timora Barnett, Mira Bechtol, Amelia Brown, Addilyn Bryant, Megan Harrigan, Taylor Hill, Katrin Parker, Tara Tavallae, Allie Wentworth