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BALLET REVIEW

'Cinderella' a treat to behold, cherish

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SPECIAL TO THE BLADE

There was magic everywhere last night as Ballet Theatre of Toledo presented its outstanding version of Cinderella in the Maumee Performing Arts Center.



Young dancers were transformed into courtiers and ladies, fireflies and dragonflies, fairies and pages, to portray in graceful mime and marvelous dancing the timeless tale of love's triumph over all.

There was the magic of Sergei Prokofiev's powerful score, which drives every step, every gesture of Nigel Burgoine's inspired choreography.

Special magic glittered around the principals - Tricia Sundbeck and Jay Goodlett - as Cinderella and Prince Charming, whose delicious pas de deux revealed sublimely intuitive partnering.

The dancing was of consistent high quality: Careful footwork and graceful arms and hands plus a clear sense of shared purpose always advanced this timeless story.



Company members - apprentices and trainees - some in multiple roles, revealed a depth of discipline and performance basics which lifted this production to a professional level.

In the first act, Kelsey Carpenter, Sarah Squillante, Lauren Burns, Mallory Pettee, and Emma Wolff were scintillating fairies. Appearing in cameo character roles, Grace Wipfli, Hannah Perna, Spencer Hack, and Ben McCrae brought maturity and fine humor to brief appearances. Cast as both Dancemaster and Jester, Douglas Burkhardt brought wit, energy, and great humor. And for brightening this dreamy fairy tale with a spicy whiff of Ballets Trockadero's in their portrayals of the Stepsisters, Isaac Jones and Tommy Cobau also merit special praise.

The second-act ballroom scene, which teeters between the dreamy encounter between Cinderella and her Prince and the angular energy of Jester and the Stepsisters, is a triumph.

Everything about this production is exceptional, from the shabby chic sets borrowed from the Cincinnati Ballet - home of Sundbeck and Goodlett - to the wonderfully colored and stylish costumes, to Dave Lowry's dramatic lighting.