

Fostering a passion for performing arts, Ventura County Ballet Company invites more than 300 children to see ballet



Originally from Kazakhstan, Victoria Luchkina will add international flair to the Ventura County Ballet Company's production of *Sleeping Beauty*, May 22-23 at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

(VENTURA, CALIF) When Kathleen Noblin opened the doors to her first Ventura ballet school in 1992, she never imagined that she would personally have a hand in introducing thousands of young children to the beauty of ballet.

On May 22-23, the Ventura County Ballet Company (VCBC) will present two performances of *Sleeping Beauty – A Fairytale Ballet* at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. The production features an international ensemble of more than 100, including a cast from around the world.

In the audience more than 300 invited guests from various youth organizations will experience performing arts – many for the first time.

Funded this year by a grant from a generous community member, VCBC's 2010 educational outreach programs benefit Aspiranet's foster children, the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura, Big Brothers and Sisters of Ventura County, Ventura Unified School District, El Concilio Del Condado de Ventura, Project Understanding, Interface Children Family Services in Camarillo and the Oxnard Housing Authority.

"One of my greatest joys is seeing a child's eyes light up while watching a live dance performance," Noblin said. "The ballet's combination of music, costumes, sets and dancers creates special magic on stage that is hard to experience anywhere else."

To attend the Ballet:

What: Sleeping Beauty – A Fairytale Ballet

Date: 7:00 p.m. on May 22 and 2:00 p.m. on May 23

Where: Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard

Cost: Adults \$9 to \$23, seniors \$15, children \$10. Following each performance, attendees will have the opportunity to meet Sleeping Beauty, Prince Desire'.

Tickets: Box office at (805) 486-2424, Ventura County Ballet Company at (805) 648-2080 or online at <http://www.oxnardpacc.com>.

Information: <http://www.venturacountyballet.com/Pe...>

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About Sleeping Beauty Ballet:

The spectacular international cast of 'Sleeping Beauty' includes Victoria Luchkina from Kazakhstan as Princess Aurora, Jose Gonzalez from Columbia as Prince Desire', and Enton Hoxha from Albania in multiple roles. American John Christopher Piel will fill various key roles as will Bruce King, a classic ballet dancer who has performed on stages throughout France and Europe. Students from Ventura County Ballet Company and Ballet Academy Ventura make up the remaining cast.

Local celebrities Bo Jaxon of B951 radio and others also will take to the stage in supporting roles. Complete with a larger than life fairytale ending, Princess Aurora and Prince Desire' celebrate their wedding nuptials with fellow fairytale characters including Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, Puss N' Boots and the White Cat, Tom Thumb and the Giant.

<http://www.vcstar.com/photos/2010/may/17/96283/>