

CURTAIN UP

Locals Dance in "Snow White"

BY PAMELA DIAMOND

A lovely lightness of being imbues the delicately balanced pirouettes and promenades of ballerina Ali Willson as she skims across the floor during a recent rehearsal for Maple Youth Ballet's "Snow White," premiering this Saturday at Irvine Barclay Theatre.

Based on the classic good-versus-evil fairytale by the Brothers Grimm, this weekend's fanciful and fun family show features deft characterizations and choreography by Artistic Director Charles Maple as well as exquisitely crafted costumes and colorful sets created by the company's talented family of volunteers.

As Snow White, the 16 year-old Willson brings a refreshingly youthful grace and poise to her leading role. It's the perfect foil for the reigning beauty the Evil Queen, portrayed by fellow Newport Beach resident Cinamin Stulik. Stulik's character is the embodiment of machiavellian malevolence, which sets the stage for the final showdown between Snow White's ingenuous innocence and the Queen's



Newport resident Ali Willson dances in Maple Ballet's "Snow White"

eaten-with-envy agenda.

"The ballet's young dancers are very talented, but it's often difficult to play older roles as a teenager. Charles needed the Queen to have more intense feelings," says Stulik of her casting as the evil monarch.

A life-long dancer who studied at UCI as well as Joffrey and Boston Ballet's summer intensives, her experience and mature professionalism is immediately obvious in the sharply effortless lines and beautifully arched feet underlying an edgily dramatic portrayal.

Stulik, who currently teaches at the Maple Conservatory of Dance, where her daughters, seven year old Kate and six year old Stella, take classes, shares that initially she found taking on the character of the Evil Queen a bit daunting. After having played Clara's loving mother for the past three years in "The Nutcracker," Stulik says it was Maple's encouragement that helped her to break through an innate benevolence and find the inner fire to fuel her character's twisted ways.

"She's the opposite of me--I'm definitely out of my comfort zone!" states the ballet mom. "But I love how Charles let's everyone rise to the occasion. He's always saying 'You should do this! Let the girls see you.' His choreography is very challenging and it takes a lot of strength, but it's also fun to be able to do this with my daughter Kate, who is old enough to be in the show. Sharing this experience with her just makes my heart soar."

Maple co-founded his eponymous school and company in 2007 with Kathy Crade, and has been providing both pre-professional training and performance opportunities to Orange County's young dancers ever since. Past productions of "The Nutcracker," "Coppelia" and "Sleeping Beauty" have had notable success, and "Snow White" should prove no exception, offering up a whimsical adventure grounded in old-fashioned virtues and vices so apropos that they still play today.

Maple Youth Ballet presents "Snow White" on March 30 at 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Tickets are \$26 - \$30. For information go to mapleconservatory.com/youthballet or thebarclay.org, or call (949) 854-4646.

Menu

PAGE 12 | STEPPING OUT

Tobin James Cellars (which has the largest wine club membership of any winery in the world--26,000 and counting) holds its own Zin Fest, with live music, more than a dozen restaurants offering generous tastings, and of course plenty of Tobin James wine.

We made it to Paso in time to meet up with fellow Tobin James fans from OC. Together, we entered the Zin Fest grounds, and at once I was reminded why the Tobin James winery is so popular: friendly staff, fun wine club members, wonderful wines, and three of the most warm and genuine winery owners you could imagine: Tobin

James (a fine winemaker/cowboy with charm to spare), and Lance and Claire Silver, a dynamic husband and wife duo whose knowledge and hospitality knows no bounds.

I'd primed Catherine on what to expect, but she admitted that the experience exceeded her expectations.

"They must have been pouring every wine they make, and they were all amazing," gushed Catherine after the event. "Tobin James was a delight to talk to, and I was surrounded by people who love to enjoy wine."

Tobin James wines can be purchased at Hi Time Cellars in Costa Mesa, and enjoyed by the glass at a handful of local restaurants, including SOL Cocina. You can also order it online at Tobin-James.com.

THE COACH HOUSE

www.thecoachhouse.com



UPCOMING SHOWS

| | |
|--|--|
|  | 3/29 COCO MONTOYA |
|  | 3/30 JOHN WAITE |
|  | 4/5 ROGER CLYNE |
|  | 4/6 THE MOTELS |
|  | 4/12 CARL PALMER |
|  | 4/17 QUEENSRYPCH w/ Geoff Tate |
|  | 4/19 ERIC BURDON |
|  | 5/1 ZAKK WYLDE |
| | 3/29 COCO MONTOYA |
| | 3/30 JOHN WAITE |
| | 4/4 BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS |
| | 4/5 ROGER CLYNE |
| | 4/6 THE MOTELS |
| | 4/7 PHIL KEAGGY |
| | 4/12 CARL PALMER'S ELP LEGACY |
| | 4/13 THE ENGLISH BEAT |
| | 4/14 KENNY CETERA'S CHICAGO |
| | 4/17 QUEENSRYPCH w/ GEOFF TATE |
| | 4/18 TYRONE WELLS |
| | 4/19 ERIC BURDON |
| | 4/20 WHICH ONE'S PINK? |
| | 4/21 GYPSY ALL STARS |
| | 4/25 VONDA SHEPARD |
| | 4/26 YOUNG DUBLINERS |
| | 4/27 MEN ARE FROM MARS - WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS |
| | 4/28 BEN OTTEWELL of GOMEZ |
| | 5/1 <i>An Evening with</i> ZAKK WYLDE |
| | 5/2 CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO |
| | 5/3 THE OUTSANE |
| | 5/4 ORANGE COUNTY'S FUNNIEST HOUSEWIVES |
| | 5/9 CRASH KINGS |
| | 5/10 TODD SNIDER |
| | 5/11 Y&T |
| | 5/12 BILL PAYNE of LITTLE FEAT |
| | 5/16 ADLER |
| | 5/17 MARTIN SEXTON |
| | 5/18 DSB (JOURNEY TRIBUTE) |
| | 5/23 DON CARLOS |
| | 5/24 CASH'D OUT |
| | 5/31 HONK |
| | 6/1 ABBEY ROAD / JUMPING JACK FLASH (BEATLES VS STONES) |
| | 6/7 DAVE DAVIES of THE KINKS |
| | 6/14 JUNIOR BROWN |
| | 6/16 ABC |
| | 6/21 BIG COUNTRY |
| | 6/22 MARSHALL TUCKER BAND |
| | 6/28 GARY HOEY |
| | 6/29 DONAVON FRANKENREITER |
| | 6/30 DONAVON FRANKENREITER |
| | 7/7 NEKTAR / MARTIN TURNER'S WISHBONE ASH |
| | 7/12 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE) |
| | 7/19 THE FIXX |
| | 7/24 JONNY LANG |
| | 7/25 THE BODEANS |
| | 7/26 JOHNNY WINTER |
| | 7/28 JEFFERSON STARSHIP |
| | 8/4 THE SMITHEREENS |
| | 8/9 THE ULTIMATE STONES |
| | 8/10 DAVID ALLAN COE |
| | 8/15 STRYPER featuring Michael Sweet and Oz Fox UNPLUGGED |
| | 8/17 WANG CHUNG |
| | 8/23 STEVE TYRELL |
| | 9/4 JOHN HIATT |
| | 9/5 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA |

33157 Camino Capistrano | San Juan Capistrano
Like Us on facebook.com/coachhouseconcerthall
follow us on Twitter @coach_house

Hogue Barmichael's

For Tickets: 949-261-6270



BEST BAR-B-QUE IN TOWN!
3950 Campus Dr | Newport Beach
www.hogue-barmichaels.com
facebook.com/Hogue-Barmichaels

3/30 **THE UNTOUCHABLES**
4/6 **Phil Lewis of L.A. GUNS**

3/29 **Dead Ringer**
4/2 **Karaoke (every Tue.)**
4/3 **Chris Cram**
4/13 **Smokin' Section**
4/19 **Back Track**
4/20 **Todd Loweth Memorial**
4/26 **Miserable End**
4/27 **"d"**
5/4 **Band On The Bayou / Skynyrd Reloaded**
5/24 **Star Off Machine**
6/15 **Wired For Sound**