

Celebrate Dance Academy Presents

WHAT
Beauty

Dec. 6th & 7th 2024

Welcome to Celebrate Dance Academy's Christmas Production, "What Beauty"

Please silence all electronics, and refrain from flash photography. You may videotape from the back of the auditorium. During our 15-minute intermission, we invite you to visit our lobby to enjoy live music and refreshments!

A Note from the Directors...

In a world that feels deeply broken, it can often seem like the light isn't making an impact. But as Leonard Cohen said, "There is a crack in everything / That's how the light gets in."

One way we see light penetrating the dark in a broken world is through the presence of art and beauty. From God's creative work in the garden to His anointing of artists to craft beautiful things for the tabernacle and the temple to Jesus' use of metaphors and stories to explain truth to His disciples, we see the importance of art, imagery, and beauty in scripture to represent the character of our creative God. As humans created in the image of God, we too are called to bring beauty into the world.

At Christmastime, we sing about the beauty of a Silent Night, of a Holy Night, of angels singing over shepherds in a pastoral setting while mother and child rest contentedly amidst the hay. And it is a beautiful picture. But we must remember that that beauty was breaking into a complicated world: a world of struggle and pain, of poverty and oppression but also a world of daily joys and peaceful moments, of family celebrations and private victories. Our world is much like that today. The only constant thing about life is its inconstancy.

And yet into the swirl of that complexity, a child was born. A child who brought life and light to that inconstant world. A child who became a man who *continues* to bring life and light to our inconstant world. *What beauty lies within? / In the eyes of this child / In the still of the night / His life proclaiming love / Over all mankind.* When our trust is in Jesus, that beauty lies within us as well. Ephesians 1:18-20 says this:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. *That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

Our hope for you this Christmas season is that you would sense the Lord's presence in your life whatever your circumstances...that His love would surround you and uphold you, that the beauty of His character would be a comfort and a joy to you.

Production Team

Sarah Pieper (SP)
Writer, Director, & Dance Lead

Myndi Lawrence (ML)
Writer, Director, & Acting Lead

Art Graf.....Lighting Design Director
Kati Hoehl.....Assistant Stage Manager, Props Assistant, and Technical Support
Pascal Carr.....Technical Support
Jacob O'Connor.....Technical Support
Brandon Peterson.....Technical Support
Dave Healy.....Technical Support
Maddie Crenshaw, Lydia Balk.....Backstage Crew

Choreographers

Erin Brady (EB).....Instructor
Rachel Bonkougou (RB).....Instructor
Kelly Campbell (KC).....Instructor
Mallory Dykema (MD).....Instructor
Jessie Gale (JG).....Instructor
Libby Johnson (LJ).....Instructor

Additional CDA Staff

Mary Smith.....CDA Managing Director
Carrie Josephson.....Financial Manager
Siri Drontle.....Instructor
Lindsey Jacobson.....Instructor and Christmas Show Costumer
Grace Norman.....Instructor

Show Setting

Time:

Modern Day

Places:

Act I: London, England

Act II: Paris, France

Show Synopsis

In this year’s Christmas show, we welcome back Mr. Zimmerman and his young friends as they explore London and Paris together! On an arts outreach trip with their sisters’ dance studio, the students see the sights of these two great cities through the eyes of Mr. Z’s grandfather who served in WW2. As a member of the Monuments Men division, his grandfather worked to help protect and restore architectural treasures that were being damaged during the war. As Mr. Z explains the different experiences his grandfather had, he is able to show the students how to find beauty in the midst of loss, brokenness, and destruction. The show concludes with the studio’s outreach performance in the city of Paris—a performance that tells the story of Jesus’ birth through dancing and scripture.

Cast of Characters (In Order of Appearance)

Abigail.....	Grace Anderson
Ava.....	Caroline Bahr
Charlotte.....	Julia Tabb
Lily.....	Imogene Dykema
Mia.....	Isla Onweller
Mr. Zimmerman.....	Rick Muehlbach
Chef.....	Chloe Gibbins
Cafe Owner.....	Kata Herman
Andrews Sister	Ivi Barnes
Andrews Sister.....	Clara Marr
Andrews Sister.....	Samantha Vonderharr
“What Beauty” Soloist	Greta Lunstad
“What Beauty” Soloist	Hazel Lunstad
“What Beauty” Soloist	Katelyn Suiter
Limited Understudy.....	Chloe Gibbins
Limited Understudy.....	Kata Herman
Limited Understudy	Ivi Barnes
Limited Understudy.....	Clara Marr
Limited Understudy.....	Samantha Vonderharr

Show Order and Musical Numbers [Act I]

Scene #1..... Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Welcome to London.....Dancers/Actors

“Peanut Brittle Brigade” Level 5 Jazz, Opening Number Dancers, Actors

Scene #2.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Skating at Hyde Park.....Dancers/Actors

“Skating” Level 3 Jazz

“Winter Wonderland” Level 6 Jazz

Scene #3.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Street performance at Hyde Park.....Dancers/Actors

“Carol of the Bells Remix” Advanced Hip Hop

Scene #4.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

The old armory jazz club.....Dancers/Actors/Andrews Sisters

“Jing-A-Ling” Level 4 Jazz

“Sleigh Ride” Level 3-4 Tap

Scene #5, *Visiting St. Paul’s Church*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

St. Paul’s Watch.....Dancers

“In The Bleak Midwinter” Level 3 Modern

Scene #6, *Present-day St. Paul’s*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Welcome to Paris.....Dancers/Actors

“Carol of the Bells of Notre Dame” Advanced Musical Theatre,

Opening dancers, actors

Intermission—15 minutes

Guests are invited to the lobby to enjoy complimentary refreshments & live music!

Show Order and Musical Numbers [Act II]

Scene #1 *Visiting Sainte Chapelle*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Sainte Chapelle, a window into heaven.....Dancers

“Ave Verum” Level 4 Modern

Scene #2 *The village church*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

And yet they were still singing.....Dancers

“Pie Jesu” Level 5-6 Modern

Scene #3 *Back at the hotel*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

Scene #4 *Outreach performance prep*.....Mr. Zimmerman, Abigail, Ava, Charlotte, Lily, Mia

The outreach performance.....Dancers

“What Child is This” Level 2 Ballet, Level 4-5 Ballet, Int.-Adv. Pointe

“Silent Night” Level 3 Contemporary

“This Night” Level 4 Contemporary

“What Beauty” Soloists, Specialty piece Level 1-6 dancers

The invitation.....Mr. Zimmerman

Act I-Cast and Credits

“Peanut Brittle Brigade” (Level 5 Jazz, Opening number dancers, Actors)

Music: David Berger, Sultans of Swing

Choreography and Staging: SP and ML

Dancers:

Level 5 Jazz: Lucy Anderson, Ruby Boxrud, Maggie Chmielecki, Ava Ganske, Gwendolyn Haas, Lydia Kuester, Kaylin Ochs, Greta Witt

Actors: Grace Anderson, Caroline Bahr, Julia Tabb, Imogene Dykema, Isla Onweller, Rick Muehlbach

Performers: Kierra Arruda, Krista Arruda, Lydia Balk, Ivi Barnes, Ada Bluml, Grace Bluml, Rosie Bluml, Chloe Brown, Sasha Bullert, Bella Chmielecki, Adeline Christopherson, Violet Christopherson, Hazel Danielson, Norah Douglass, Harlow Dykema, Chloe Gibbons, Kata Herman, Hatts Kauls, Hadassah Kendrick, Elise Lundgren, Hazel Lunstad, Clara Marr, Gracie Muehlbach, Kaylin Ochs, Zoe pignatello, Simone Semmler, Nina Sutherland, Katelyn Suiter, Jessa McCannell-Unger, Samantha Vonderharr, Mira West, Madi Witham

“Skating” (Level 3 Jazz)

Music: Vince Guaraldi Trio

Choreography: MD

Dancers: Mari Anderson, Molly Casey, Adeline Christopherson, Norah Douglass, Magdalena Gerth, Hazel Lunstad, Madisen Smith, Anna Wallerstedt

“Winter Wonderland” (Level 6 Jazz)

Music: Count Basie Orchestra

Choreography: SP

Dancers: Adelaide Brandt, Choe Brown, Kennedy Carney, Megan DeFrance, Jenna Eggimann, Greta Lunstad, Rebekah Wallerstedt, Mira West

“Carol of the Bells Remix” (Advanced Hip Hop)

Music: Nuclear Maniac

Choreography: KC

Dancers: Ruby Boxrud, Adelaide Brandt, Keilah Buuck, Kennedy Carney, Maggie Chmielecki, Megan DeFrance, Jenna Eggimann, Ava Ganske, Hadassah Kendrick, Gabriel Knudsen-Do, Greta Lunstad, Madisen Smith, Katelyn Suiter, Anna Wallerstedt, Mira West

“Jing-A-Ling, Jing-A-Ling” (Level 4 Jazz, Andrews Sisters)

Music: The Andrews Sisters

Choreography: MD (L4 Jazz) ML (Andrews Sisters)

Dancers:

Level 4 Jazz: Sarah Allal, Grace Bluml, Keilah Buuck, Siena Cain, Taylor Crenshaw, Hazel Danielson, Harlow Dykema, Greta Gimble, Gabriel Knudsen-Do, Rhyann Linn, Kaitlyn Nerland, Ava Ollendick, Simone Semmler, Hailey Smyth, Ruby Waffensmith

Andrews Sisters: Ivi Barnes, Clara Marr, Samantha Vonderharr

“Sleigh Ride” (Level 3-4 Tap)

Music: The Andrews Sisters

Choreography: EB

Dancers:

Level 3 Tap: Grace Bluml, Gabriel Knudsen-Do, Jessa McCannell-Unger

Level 4 Tap: Adelaide Brandt, Harlow Dykema, Katelyn Suiter, Amelia Walker

Andrews Sisters: Ivi Barnes, Clara Marr, Samantha Vonderharr

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (Level 3 Modern)

Music: The Brilliance

Choreography: SP

Dancers: Taylor Crenshaw, Hazel Danielson, Harlow Dykema, Lydia Kuester, Hazel Lunstad, Zoe Pignatello, Amelia Walker, Anna Wallerstedt

“Carol of the Bells of Notre Dame” (Advanced Musical Theatre, Chef, Cafe Owner, Actors, Opening Number Dancers)

Music: Voctave

Choreography: SP

Actors Staging: ML

Advanced Musical Theatre: Kennedy Carney, Maggie Chmielecki, Harlow Dykema, Gwendolyn Haas, Greta Lunstad, Greta Witt

Opening Number Dancers: Kierra Arruda, Krista Arruda, Lydia Balk, Ivi Barnes, Ada Bluml, Grace Bluml, Rosie Bluml, Chloe Brown, Sasha Bullert, Bella Chmielecki, Maggie Chmielecki, Addie Christopherson, Violet Christopherson, Hazel Danielson, Norah Douglass, Chloe Gibbins, Kata Herman, Hatts Kauls, Hadassah Kendrick, Elise Lundgren, Hazel Lunstad, Clara Marr, Gracie Muehlbach, Kaylin Ochs, Zoe Pignatello, Simone Semmler, Nina Sutherland, Katelyn Suiter, Jessa McCannell-Unger, Samantha Vonderharr, Mira West, Madi Witham

Act II-Cast and Credits

“Ave Verum” (Level 4 Modern)

Music: Gabriel Faure, Elizabeth Lane, Richard Egarr, Nicholas White, Timothy Brown

Choreography: LJ

Dancers: Mira Bardal, Evelyn Bowe, Ruby Boxrud, Keilah Buuck, Siena Cain, Adeline Christopherson, Anna Dommer, Ava Ganske, Magdalena Gerth, Gwendolyn Haas, Eden Johnson, Taylor McDowell, Hailey Smyth, Ruby Waffensmith

“Pie Jesu” (Level 5-6 Modern)

Music: Future of Forestry

Choreography: LJ

Dancers:

Level 6 Modern: Lila Johnson, Greta Lunstad, Katelyn Suiter

Level 5 Modern: Lucy Anderson, Chloe Brown, Maggie Chmielecki, Megan DeFrance, Rebekah Wallerstedt, Greta Witt

“What Child is This” (Level 2 Ballet, Level 4-5 Ballet, Int.-Adv. Pointe)

Music: Future of Forestry

Choreography: RB (L2 ballet in red, Level 4-5 Ballet, Pointe) JG (L2 ballet in white)

Dancers:

Level 2 Ballet (Mon. 5:45pm): Grace Bluml, Adeline Christopherson,
Anna Dommer, Magdalena Gerth, Eden Johnson, Simone Semmler

Level 2 Ballet (Mon. 7:30pm): Kierra Arruda, Ruby Boxrud, Ava Copeland,
Hazel Danielson, Norah Douglass, Ava Ganske, Hatts Kauls, Hazel Lunstad,
Nessa Moriarty, Ruby Waffensmith

Level 4-5 Ballet: Kennedy Carney, Molly Casey, Ariana Hill, Lila Johnson,
Greta Lunstad, Katelyn Suiter, Rebekah Wallerstedt, Greta Witt

Int.-Adv. Pointe: Molly Casey, Lila Johnson, Greta Lunstad, Rebekah Wallerstedt

“Silent Night” (Level 3 Contemporary)

Music: Future of Forestry

Choreography: KC

Dancers: Mira Bardal, Adeline Christopherson, Gwendolyn Haas, Ariana Hill,
Gracie Muehlbach, Melody Weinkauff

“This Night” (Level 4 Contemporary)

Music: Future of Forestry

Choreography: RB

Dancers: Adelaide Brandt, Kennedy Carney, Megan DeFrance, Jenna Eggimann,
Greta Lunstad, Katelyn Suiter

“What Beauty” (Soloists and Finale Specialty Level 1-6 Dancers)

Music: Future of Forestry

Choreography: SP

Dancers: Soloists: Hazel Lunstad, Greta Lunstad, Katelyn Suiter

Level 1-3 Dancers: Kierra Arruda, Krista Arruda, Ava Copeland, Elise Lundgren,
Lauren Nerland

Level 4-6 Dancers: Mira Bardal, Megan DeFrance, Anna Dommer, Greta Lunstad,
Katelyn Suiter, Amelia Walker, Greta Witt

Production Team Biographies

Rachel Bonkougou (Choreographer) is a MN native and this is her second year choreographing for the Christmas show. She has performed, taught, and choreographed in the Twin Cities area since graduating from the U of MN with her degree in dance. It was a privilege and thrill to bring to life the Christmas story through dance and she loves the sweetness of celebrating Jesus' birth through dance.

Erin Brady (Choreographer) Erin grew up dancing at Celebrate and is excited to be back as an instructor this year! While she took classes in a variety of styles, she discovered a unique passion for tap, and quickly made it the focus of her dance education. Erin continued her training at the University of Northwestern – St. Paul, graduating with a marketing major and theatre minor. During her time at Northwestern, she was a company member with UNW Dance Theatre for three seasons and participated in a variety of theatrical productions with the UNW Theatre Department. When not busy with her current studies at the U of MN law school, Erin performs as a featured tap dancer with traditional jazz musicians from across the country, including Banu Gibson, Arne Fogel, Jeff Barnhart, and Josh Duffee.

Kelly Campbell (Choreographer) started dancing at seven years old and grew up at Celebrate! Growing up at Celebrate, she got the opportunity to student teach where she first fell in love with teaching dance. Having all of her dance training at Celebrate, she is happy to continue on her journey at the studio as an instructor. This is her third year teaching at CDA, and she is ecstatic to see what God has planned for her here! As a teacher, she hopes to not only help young dancers develop as dancers but also as people of God.

Mallory Dykema (Choreographer) began her training in ballet, jazz, and modern at the Performing Arts Center in Waconia, MN. She went on to receive a BFA in Dance from the U of MN. Mallory was a longtime performer with the local theatrical jazz company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble. Over the years, she's had the pleasure of instructing and choreographing at North Central University, Prairie School of Dance, and currently at Celebrate Dance Academy. Aside from her dancing pursuits, Mallory enjoys her days with her five children and husband, Traivis!

Jess Gale (Choreographer) started dancing at Celebrate at 11 years old. She continued to dance through high school, participating in ballet, pointe, modern, contemporary, musical theater, and jazz. After she graduated, she began to teach ballet and modern at Celebrate for the past two years. Jess loves to inspire students to pursue excellence in both their technique and daily lives. Outside of the studio, Jess is finishing her bachelors from the University of Northwestern — St. Paul in May, 2025. She hopes to point people back to God in both her dancing life and professional life.

Art Graf (Lighting Designer) has been lighting the stage at Celebrate Dance for four years now. With over 25 years working in communication and stage technology systems, Art has enjoyed working as both a Product Development Engineer (Electrical) and Broadcast Engineer (KTIS). Now as owner of Graf Light and Electronics, he offers his performance technology expertise to local stages. Art lives in the heart of the Twin Cities with his wife Kelly Lynn and three kids (who all love bright lights too). Graf Light and Electronics www.graf-lightelectronics.com

Kati Hoehl (Assistant Stage Manager, Photographer, and Technical Support) is a theatre-loving artist based in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has a degree in Film and Theatre Design from the University of Northwestern–St. Paul, and she currently works as the media coordinator at North Heights Church and a theatre teacher at Rise Up Homeschool in Forest Lake, MN. Through her work as an actor, director, and videographer, she desires to combine the worlds of theatre and film, retell old stories in new ways, and provide community to beautifully chaotic and creative individuals. Find more at katihoehl.art

Libby Johnson (Choreographer) is a multidisciplinary artist in the fields of music, writing, and dance. She holds a degree in kinesiology from the University of MN with an emphasis in dance. Her work has been performed at the MN Fringe Festival, Project Dance NYC and YWAM School of Dance. In addition to teaching, Libby is artistic director of her arts collective, Vivid Artistry, and also hosts her own podcast, Art & Faith Conversations. Libby and her husband have 3 teen daughters and live in Woodbury.

Myndi Lawrence (Writer, Director, Acting Lead) has been involved with Celebrate Dance Academy for almost nineteen years since her oldest daughter started taking classes here. Through supporting her three daughters as they danced at CDA, she has gotten more and more involved and is now thrilled and honored to help create the Christmas show each year. In addition to her dance interests, she teaches communications, classic literature, and theatre in various homeschool co-ops and serves as the Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Covenant Church. In her free time, she likes to read, dance, and hang out with her incredibly supportive husband, Joel, their four amazing kids, and their sweet Mal-shi pup.

Rick Muehlbach (Guest Artist) has been a fan of CDA for a number of years, having seen every show his granddaughter Gracie has danced in. Besides the role of grandfather, Rick likes to think he draws rave reviews for playing Sue Muehlbach's husband in their classic RomCom, which has been running for, well, let's just say, lots of seasons. Other roles he's enjoyed include pastor, professor, and actor in commercials and films. Rick's favorite role is "child of God" (Romans 8:14-19).

Jacob O'Conner (Technical Support) is a local theatre artist who works as a sound tech for North Heights Church. Jacob also does sound at North Lakes Christian Church in North St Paul. In his off time, he likes to act with Arts Garden, Grace Community Theatre, and Theatre Intensive. Jacob is happy to be a part of this production and to work with this group again.

Sarah Pieper (Writer, Director, & Dance Lead) holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. As a director and educator, Sarah has served as the Artistic Director of Celebrate Dance Academy since 2012. Sarah is also an Adjunct Professor in Dance and Choreographer at the University of Northwestern–St. Paul. Additional choreography credits: North Central University, Project Dance NYC, YWAM School of Dance, and various Spotlight award-winning high school productions throughout MN. Sarah has performed professionally since 2012 and has performed with Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkel, Artistry Theater, Vivid Artistry, Alternative Motion Project, and Eclectic Edge Ensemble. Sarah is thrilled to be a part of bringing hope and beauty to others through this production, and honored to work with such talented and beautiful performers at CDA! She sends much love to her husband, David, her inspiring 4-year-old, Jordy, and baby girl on the way!

Special Thanks To . . .

Our incredible tech crew for helping our ideas come to life! Your creative solutions and vision made this story unfold so beautifully! Special thanks to **Art Graf** for your eye in shaping the story through your incredible lighting design and to **Maxwell Graf** for helping make it happen!

Our CDA staff and choreographers for sharing your unique creativity through each and every dance! Your investment makes an eternal impact!

All of our CDA Dancers for sharing your heart and artistry to bring this story to life! You shape beauty as you move across the stage, and you shine bright!

Lindsey Jacobson for helping organize and ensure our costumes looked fabulous on the performers!

Sammi Odegaard for going above and beyond to help run dances and help behind the scenes wherever needed! We SO appreciate you!

Rick Muehlbach for being our dream choice for Mr. Zimmerman and for reprising that role in a new show! We are so grateful for your commitment to the show, your constant stream of encouragement, and your kind, fun presence onstage.

Kati Hoehl for your work in creating props and organizing all of our happenings backstage!

Nita Dougherty for generously providing so many props, costumes, and set pieces! You are an incredible blessing to us!

Dan and Linda Johnson for providing so many props for this production! Your support means the world!

Emmanuel Covenant Church for loaning us pipe and drape and some key set pieces that are crucial to the show. It has been such a huge help to us!

Calvary Church for sharing your beautiful stained glass windows with us!

Concordia Academy for helping us with some prop pieces. We appreciate your generosity!

University of Northwestern–St. Paul Theatre Department for generously allowing us to use some of your beautiful costumes and lighting equipment!

Rebecca Marr for sharing your musical gifts with us and filling the lobby with beauty during intermission!

Denny Armstrong and Tom Bergum for your incredible spirit of generosity and willingness to serve and help with repairs, set pieces, and moving props and set pieces. We appreciate you and all the time you give!

Special Thanks To . . .

NHLC Housekeeping crew for always being willing to unlock doors, help us transport set pieces, and clean our spaces! Thank you so much!

Rich Childs for your support in creating our publicity materials for the show! We are so grateful for you!

Grace Anderson, Caroline Bahr, Imogene Dykema, Isla Onweller, Julia Tabb and their families for making time for ALL the rehearsals in preparation for the show. You are all such intuitive and gifted actors at a young age! It's been a joy to work with you. We are so proud of you and grateful for the energy and enthusiasm you bring to each show!

So many CDA Parents/adults for taking on special sewing projects, bringing snacks, helping with set-up and tear-down, ushering, serving treats, and much more! We couldn't do this without your help!

Hazel Lunstad, Greta Lunstad, Katelyn Suiter for giving your time and energy to extra rehearsals to prepare for your roles. Thank you for your artistry and the heart you put into each performance!

Ivi Barnes, Chloe Gibbins, Kata Herman, Clara Marr, and Samantha Vonderharr for your willingness to serve as understudies, attend rehearsals, and take on featured roles in some of the pieces. You each bring such fun and joy to the stage!

Amelia Balk for creating the London and Paris travel slides and to **Lydia Balk** for being Myndi's right hand with props and set pieces.

Linda and Don Zito and Darren and Aleta Schulte for loaning us your church pews. They were each a crucial set piece for this show!

ALL of our generous and supportive families for making this production happen! Your time, talents, resources, and support allows us to continue to create excellent and meaningful performances both for our students and audiences. THANK YOU!

We Need Your Support....



Productions like these can truly only continue with your support and generosity! Would you please prayerfully consider a donation to offset our production costs and ensure the continuation of these works?

Cash or check donations may be mailed or delivered to our office (checks to NHLC with the memo noting Celebrate Dance), or you can scan the QR code and give online. Once you scan the code, you will be directed to **easytithe** where you can select Celebrate Dance Academy under the "fund" drop down menu. Thank you!