

**CALIFORNIA BALLET COMPANY ANNOUNCES**

Thor Sutowski's

***Swan Lake***

**AT THE SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE  
October 28-29, 2017**

There will be a Press Invitational at the Civic Theatre on Friday, October 27, 2017 at 7pm.  
Please RSVP with Joe Shumate to attend: [jshumate@californiaballet.org](mailto:jshumate@californiaballet.org).

San Diego, CA - California Ballet Company (CBC) announces the return of Thor Sutowski's critically acclaimed full-length *Swan Lake* on October 28-29, 2017 at the San Diego Civic Theatre. This production will open California Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. San Diego's only locally, professionally produced *Swan Lake* features gorgeous sets and costumes from Cincinnati Ballet, and the incredible dynamic score by Tchaikovsky.

Choreographer Thor Sutowski set his original *Swan Lake* on California Ballet in 1997, which premiered that year at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Drawing inspiration from the original Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov production, Mr. Sutowski's version stays true to the grand Russian style of ballet. This season's production will be the fourth time California Ballet has produced its full-length version for San Diego audiences.

*Swan Lake* will feature California Ballet Principal Dancers Ana da Costa and Reka Gyulai alternating as Odette/Odile, Trystan Merrick and Toshiro Abbley alternating as Prince Siegfried, with Soloists Oscar Burciaga as the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart and Jeremy Zapanta as Benno.

**When:** October 28-29, 2017

**Where:** San Diego Civic Theatre; 1100 Third Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

**Price:** \$25 - \$125; Recommended for children ages 6 and up. Must be at least 4 years old to attend.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.CaliforniaBallet.org](http://www.CaliforniaBallet.org) or (858) 560-6741

**About the Ballet**

One of the most popular ballets created, *Swan Lake* tells the story of Prince Siegfried's love for the Swan Queen, Odette, their battle against the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart, and an encounter with the manipulative Odile. This popular production brings the romance and high drama of the Russian ballet tradition alive, and features Tchaikovsky's famous score.

*Swan Lake* was originally produced in 1877 by the Bolshoi Theatre. That version, choreographed by Julius Reisinger was a flop. The version of *Swan Lake* which is universally loved today was choreographed by Marius Petipa (acts 1 & 3) and Lev Ivanov (acts 2 & 4) for the Mariinsky Theatre, and premiered in 1895. The new version was a modest success, though it wouldn't claim its position as the epitome of classical ballet until later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Petipa & Ivanov's reimagined ballet is the production upon which every contemporary version of *Swan Lake* has been based.

For images and video related to *Swan Lake*, please go to [www.californiaballet.org/press](http://www.californiaballet.org/press).

Dancer & choreographer bios on the back



## Bios:

**Thor Sutowski** – (*Choreographer*) received three Emmy awards for dance programs produced on PBS and has produced several successful domestic and foreign tours under Columbia Artists. He was resident choreographer for Atlanta Ballet and coached the American team for the Third International Competition de Danse in Paris. He was the director of the Norwegian Ballet in the late 1960's, and more recently Ballet South in Alabama for nearly 20 years. Locally, Sutowski has been associate director/choreographer with both California Ballet and San Diego Ballet. Six of his works are in the California Ballet repertoire.

**Toshiro Abbley** – (*Prince Siegfried*) began taking tap classes at the age of six. At the age of thirteen, he started his classical ballet training at South Bay Ballet. He was awarded first place at the prestigious Los Angeles Spotlight Awards in 2006 and was a semi-finalist at the 2007 USA International Ballet Competition. Mr. Abbley danced professionally with Miami City Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, the Royal Ballet of Flanders and Backhausdance. Mr. Toshiro made his debut with California Ballet last season, appearing in *Peter Pan* and *Beer and Ballet*.

**Ana da Costa** – (*Odette/Odile*) was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and received her ballet training from Centro de Dança. At the age of sixteen she started her professional career by joining The Young Ballet of France, in Paris. Two years later she joined Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro becoming a first soloist. Ms. da Costa joined California Ballet in 2014 as a principal dancer, appearing as Myrtle in *The Great Gatsby*, the lead role in *Giselle*, the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*, lead roles in *Fluctuating Hemlines* and *Ruled by Secrecy*, and Tiger Lily and Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*. Ana received the CBC Dancer of the Year award for 2015-2016.

**Reka Gyulai** – (*Odette/Odile*) comes to CBC from her native country of Hungary. She received her professional training at the Hungarian Dance Academy in Budapest, Hungary. Reka was a finalist at the International Ballet Competition in Vienna in 2004. In 2006 she received a Scholarship of the Republic from the Hungarian Ministry of Education. Reka joined California Ballet in 2015 and was promoted to principal dancer last season. She appeared as the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, in Jared Nelson's *Ruled by Secrecy*, in the *Don Quixote* pas de deux for *Beyond the Barre*, and danced the role of Wendy in Septime Webre's *Peter Pan*.

**Trystan Merrick** – (*Prince Siegfried*) has performed in the works of such great choreographers as Twyla Tharp, Robert Cohen, and George Balanchine, as well as many of the classics. Mr. Merrick joined Nevada Ballet Theater in 2007, and danced for San Diego Ballet, Malashock, Owen Cox Dance, City Ballet of San Diego and with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, touring internationally to 16 countries on five continents. He regularly performs with Jean Isaacs' San Diego Dance Theater. He joined California Ballet in 2014 and has been featured in many ballets, including Albrecht in *Giselle*, Cavalier in *The Nutcracker*, Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Tom Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*, Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet* and Captain Hook in Septime Webre's *Peter Pan*.

**Oscar Burciaga** – (*Von Rothbart*) has a B.F.A. in Mexican Folklore and Modern Dance from the Universidad de Colima, Mexico. He is a founding member and current teacher at the University of Colima's Dance Workshop series and at the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference. Mr. Burciaga joined CBC in 2002 as a company member, and was promoted to Soloist in 2006. He has been featured in numerous roles with CBC including Pio Pico (*Legend of Josefa*), Mad Hatter (*Alice in Wonderland*), For Flora, the lead in *Valse Triste*, Bottom (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), ugly stepsister (*Cinderella*), Drosselmeyer (*Nutcracker*), and Von Rothbart (*Swan Lake*).

**Jeremy Zapanta** – (*Benno*) began his dance training at age 13 at Burbank School of Ballet. He continued his training at the University of California Irvine, where he studied ballet, modern, and jazz. Mr. Zapanta has trained at a number of summer intensives including: the American Academy of Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, LINES Ballet, and Los Angeles Ballet Academy. Mr. Zapanta joined California Ballet as a Corps de Ballet member in 2013 and was promoted to soloist in 2014. He was featured in Peasant Pas de Deux in *Giselle*, as Nick in *The Great Gatsby*, as a Lover in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as Cavalier and Lead Russian in *The Nutcracker* and as Peter in *Peter Pan*.

For more information on *Swan Lake* please visit [www.CaliforniaBallet.org](http://www.CaliforniaBallet.org)  
or email Joe Shumate at [jshumate@californiaballet.org](mailto:jshumate@californiaballet.org).

### California Ballet 2017-2018 50<sup>th</sup> Season Sponsors



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