



THE BALLET CENTER AT THE WILKES
UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORY PRESENTS:

“COPPELIA”
2026

WITH GUEST ARTIST: DARIUS CORBETT



SATURDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 AT 2 PM

DOROTHY DICKSON DARTE
CENTER AT WILKES UNIVERSITY



Wilkes University

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Conservatory Dance FacultyKarla Kovatch
Sarah Polansky
Adrienne Zulkoski

Technical Direction & Lighting DesignAlexander Corcoran
Michaels

Assistant Technical DirectionSpencer Shoto

Crew MembersJacob Cintronelle
Noah Dixon
Sarina Rowe
Cally Williams

Costume ManagementAlison Carlsson
Lauren Mace

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THE BALLET CENTER AT THE WILKES
UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORY PRESENTS:

“**COPPELIA**”
2026

WITH GUEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST DARIUS CORBETT AND STUDENTS
FROM THE BALLET CENTER AND WILKES UNIVERSITY

MUSIC COMPOSITION BY LEO DELIBES

CHOREOGRAPHY AND STAGING BY ALISON CARLSSON, KARLA KOVATCH,
SARAH POLANSKY AND ADRIENNE ZULKOSKI AFTER MARIUS PETIPA

STORY OF THE BALLET

ACT I

Coppelia is a love story in three acts. Act one begins in the square of a small European town. On the right is a large house with a lovely girl, Coppelia, in the window. From another house, Swanilda enters the square, and dances a dance of her love for Franz. She notices Coppelia and waves to her but gets no response. Feeling she has been snubbed by the girl, Swanilda becomes angered. In her anger, she imagines Coppelia is waiting for Franz, and that she is a rival for his affection. Upon hearing Franz approach, she hides herself where she may observe his behavior. Franz, a high-spirited young man, slightly conceited yet good natured, arrives for his rendezvous with Swanilda. However, he is distracted when he notices Coppelia. He waves back, confirming Swanilda's worst suspicions. Swanilda appears and angrily accuses Franz of being unfaithful to her. A group from the village comes and dances the energetic mazurka, and then the Burgermeister appears to announce a festival the very next day to celebrate the gift of a bell for the town. Further, he says that couples that marry during the festival will receive a large dowry from the court. Swanilda, wanting to marry but unsure of Franz's love, uses an old custom as a test. An ear of wheat, when shaken, will make a sound if her love is true, but will be silent if he is not. Shaking the wheat, but hearing nothing, she announces that she and Franz are no longer engaged. Later that night, Dr. Coppelius leaves his house. Swanilda and her friends, seeing the opportunity to confront Coppelia, cautiously enter her house. Dr. Coppelius, missing his house key, returns, and finds the door open, goes into the house in a panic. Franz, wanting Coppelia to acknowledge his love, sneaks through the door of the house as the curtain falls.

ACT II

Act II opens inside Dr. Coppelius's house. Swanilda and her friends enter a room filled with life-sized dolls; in time, they find Coppelia and discover that she is also a doll. The girls wind up the mechanical dolls, and each begins its own dance. Dr. Coppelius enters in a rage, and chases all the intruders away except Swanilda, who hides behind a curtain where the Coppelia doll sits. She disguises herself by donning Coppelia's clothes. Dr. Coppelius hears Franz coming into the room and seizes him. Franz pleads that he means no harm, but has only come to see Coppelia, the girl he loves. Dr. Coppelius appears to be calmed by this and offers Franz a glass of wine. As drink follows upon drink, it becomes obvious that Dr. Coppelius is manipulating the young man into a state of intoxication. When Franz eventually passes into unconsciousness, Dr. Coppelius opens the curtains to reveal the figure of Swanilda disguised as Coppelia. He casts various spells and is exquisitely pleased when his doll comes to life. Swanilda is amused at deceiving Dr. Coppelius and acts as if she were a wooden doll just beginning to come to life.

However, when she tries to awaken Franz, Dr. Coppelius puts her back behind the curtain. When Franz awakens, Dr. Coppelius persuades him to leave his house at once. Swanilda, now all too life like, rushes out of the house knocking dolls over as she goes. Dr. Coppelius looks behind the curtain and finds Coppelia's wooden doll form still inanimate across her chair.

STORY OF THE BALLET

ACT III

The festival day has arrived and Swanilda is radiant in her wedding dress. They approach the Burgermeister to be married. Franz cannot take his eyes off Swanilda. The assembled villagers share their joy except for Dr. Coppelius, who barges in with intent on securing compensation for his ruined workshop. Swanhilda accepts responsibility for the disruption and offers her dowry Dr. Coppelius. Touched by Swanilda's sense of duty, the court offers Dr. Coppelius a purse of gold coins to rebuild his workshop. The villagers rejoice and celebrate for the remainder of the day.



CAST

Swanilda:	Nina Dunleavy
Franz:	Darius Corbett
Franz's Friend:	Anna Ostaltsov
Dr Coppelius:	Carlos Candelario
Coppelia:	Emmalee Carlsson, Sat. 5/6, Avery Berry, Sun. 5/7
Swanilda's Friends	Sophia Bellanca, Krystal Clark, Sophie Danelutt, Lily Davis, Ella Dunleavy, Emma Kane, Abigail Mace, Ava Smith, Marina Susko, Liana Winkler
The Burgermeister:	James Dunleavy
Mazurka Lead:	Marina Susko
Mazurka Corps:	Addyson Cardillo, Charlotte Carlsson, Sloane Dunham, Kensie Haas, Ayla Rowlands, Alexandra Selenski, Sophia Shovlin, Charlie Smith, Charlotte Smith, Alice Stark
Spanish Doll:	June Hamill
Chinese Doll:	Natalya Filak
Russian Doll:	Tessa Norakus
German Girl Doll:	Capria Susko
German Boy Doll:	Lex Polansky
Prayer:	Abigail Mace
Dawn:	Ella Dunleavy
Czardas Lead:	Sophia Bellanca
Czardas :	Addyson Cardillo, Charlotte Carlsson, Sloane Dunham, Kensie Haas, Ayla Rowlands, Alexandra Selenski, Sophia Shovlin, Charlie Smith, Charlotte Smith, Alice Stark

CAST

Village Peasants: Everest Dunham, Natalya Filak, June Hamill,
Tessa Norakus, Lex Polansky, Capria Susko,
Rebecca Bond, Emily Mace, Beatrice Marcalus,
Stella Serino, Adele Zulkoski

Village Children: Finley Augaitis, Kalina Filak, Abigail Gialanella,
Zoey Gorski, Della Lyons, Lennan Murry, Alina Peralta,
Mia Peralta, Layla Polansky, Madison Taylor,
Sophia Tokar, Nicholaus Zulkoski



BALLET CENTER'S GUEST ARTIST

DARIUS MYLES CORBETT



Darius Myles Corbett is a dancer from Baltimore, Maryland currently in his final year on scholarship at The Ailey School in New York City. He has trained with programs including Ballet Academy East, Canada's National Ballet School, Joffrey Ballet School, and Peabody Preparatory, and has worked with acclaimed choreographers including Pedro Ruiz, Darrell Moultrie, Amy Hall Garner, and Judith Jamison.

Recent performance credits include Grace, Revelations, The River, Memoria, Ounce of Faith, and Serenade. Darius was also featured as a soloist in a work by Amy Hall Garner performed with the Baltimore

Symphony Orchestra. His performance of Memoria was presented with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater during their New York City Center season. Known for his athleticism, artistry, and emotional depth, Darius is passionate about blending contemporary movement with strong ballet foundations while continuing to grow as both a performer and choreographer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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