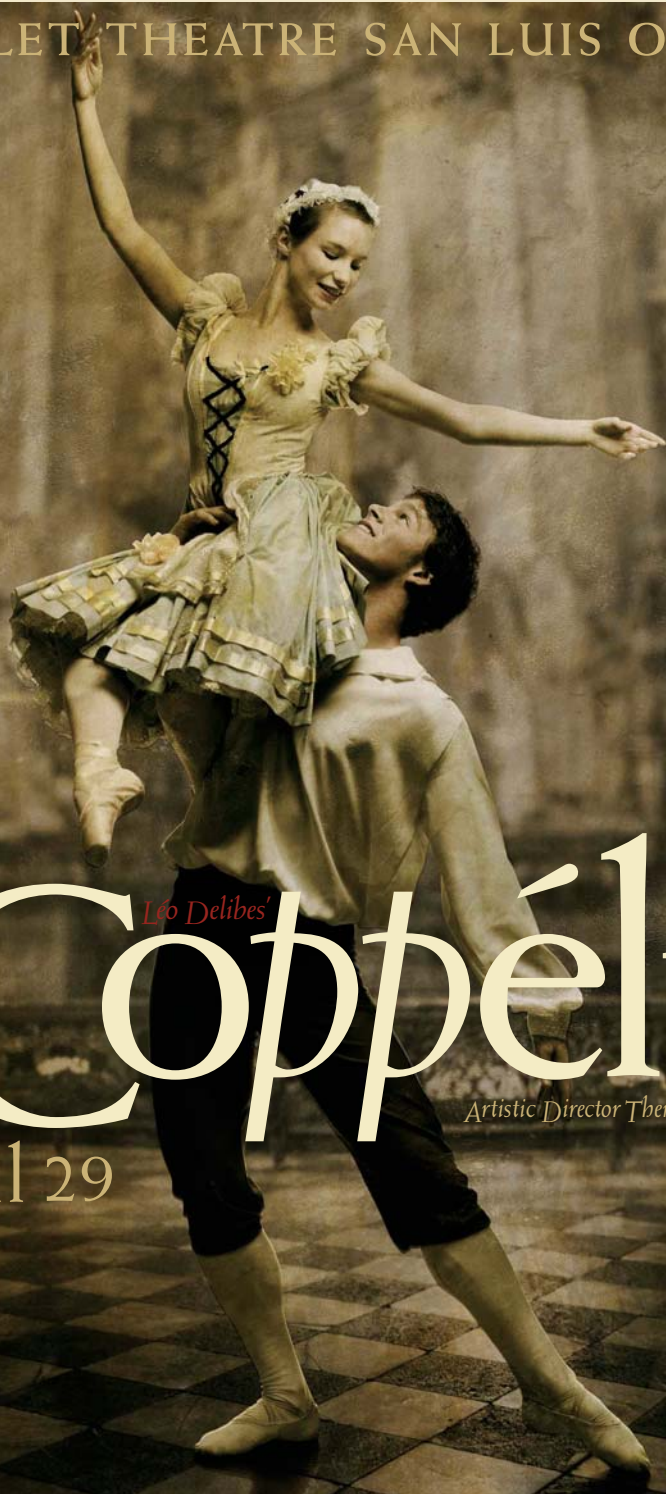


BALLET THEATRE SAN LUIS OBISPO



*Leo Delibes'*  
**Coppélia**

*Artistic Director Theresa Slobodnik*

April 29

performing arts center san luis obispo

## Artistic Director's Message

**Art** – it *touches* the human spirit.

**Music** – it *stirs* the human spirit.

**Dance** – it *expresses* the human spirit.

What a privilege to set *Coppélia* on the dancers of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo. It has been a monumental ascent – coordinating the talents and schedules of 50 dancers, having sets and costumes designed and built, seeing it all gel and become something truly worthy of the ballet's rich history. Consider Léo Delibes – the brilliant Romantic composer, who in spite of his short life (by today's standards), left us one of ballet's most beautiful and exquisitely narrative scores. I have witnessed an amazing intersection of the 19th and 21st centuries. You have our deepest thanks for attending our performance of *Coppélia*. May you in turn be touched and stirred.

Yours in the arts,



Theresa Slobodnik  
Shalom



## Artistic Director Theresa Slobodnik

Theresa Slobodnik is from the San Francisco Bay Area, where she received her early training from Marjorie Stevens, Lee Salsbury, Patrice Nissen (RAD), modern with Virginia Toy, and jazz with Rec Russell. On staff since 1989, Theresa studied with Gilbert and Sydna Reed, and was principal dancer for The Gilbert Reed Ballet Chamber Dancers (1989-92) and most recently The Gilbert Reed Ballet (1993 – 2003) where she also served as Assistant Director. Some of her most noted performances include the title roles in *The Firebird*, *Carmen*, and *Camille*. She also created the role of Belle in The Gilbert Reed Ballet's world premiere of *Beauty and the Beast* and was critically acclaimed for her performances as Young Scrooge's Betrothed in *A Christmas Carol*, and the institutionalized woman in *Asylum*.

Currently Theresa teaches Accelerated Ballet, Pointe, and Partnering classes at American Dance of SLO. In spring of 2006 she founded and is now Artistic Director/Choreographer of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo. Theresa and her husband John live in San Luis Obispo and have five children.

# BALLET THEATRE SAN LUIS OBISPO

Artistic Director/Choreographer - Theresa Slobodnik  
Assistant Director - Blair London

Theresa Slobodnik founded Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo in the spring of 2006, presenting its first full program featuring the works of Gilbert Reed. Following Ms. Slobodnik's retirement from professional dancing and the closing of The Gilbert Reed Ballet, the company was formed to give serious ballet dancers ages 12 through adult opportunity to dance meaningful work in real theatres. In addition to an annual spring performance, each December Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo presents its original holiday

production *The Twelve Days of Christmas* in association with its studio home American Dance of SLO and nonprofit umbrella "Friendship Through Dance." The company's youth division also performs at community events and benefits throughout the year. Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo is committed to outreach education, providing abridged performances of its programs through YOPAC (Youth Outreach for the Performing Arts Center) to area schools.

## Principals

### Swanilda - Sheridan Torgerson

**Sheridan** has been dancing at American Dance of SLO for fifteen years. Her teachers include Theresa Slobodnik, Leslie Baumberger, Gilbert & Sydna Reed, and Suzy Miller. Sheridan danced for The Gilbert Reed Ballet for nine years with roles including a Cratchit Child, a Caroler, and a Young Lady in *A Christmas Carol*, the Bird & a Hunter in *Peter and the Wolf*, and various roles in the productions of *Carmen*, *Percussive*, *Viennese Nights*, and *Children's Toys*. She was a member of the American Dance of SLO Youth Ballet Ensemble performing dances such as *Vivaldi* and *Bach Prelude*. She performed both jazz and ballet pieces in the SLO PAC's 10th Anniversary Dance Concert, September 2006. Currently, in addition to being one of Leslie Baumberger's All American Dancers Competition Team, Sheridan proudly dances for Theresa Slobodnik's Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo.



### Franz - Wes Krukow

**Wes** began his dance training at age twelve and has studied under Gilbert & Sydna Reed, Theresa Slobodnik, Leslie Baumberger, Anne Sousa, and Rose Patti at American Dance of SLO. Currently Wes is a member of Leslie Baumberger's All American Dancers Competition Team and Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo. At competitions including LADF, Hollywood Connection, and Tremaine, Wes has received The Fame Award, The Icon Award (twice), and a six week scholarship to The Edge Performing Arts Center. For The Gilbert Reed Ballet he has danced Peter in *Peter and the Wolf*, Bob Cratchit Jr. in *A Christmas Carol*, and *Viennese Nights*. For Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo Wes has danced principal roles in *Wali Sangara*, *Let Us Pause*, and in *Winter* and *Les Patineurs* (the skaters) from *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. He has loved dancing since his first class and continues to live for nights like this performance of *Coppélia*.



### Dr. Coppélius & Assistant Director - Blair London

**Blair** began folk dance in his early years, and he has been studying ballet and dance in one form or another since his college days. He was a member of Khadra, San Francisco's International Folk Ballet during his graduate school years at Stanford University. He has also performed in dance companies in St. Louis and San Luis Obispo. He was part of a select dance troupe invited to perform in Russia in 2002 under the direction of Lisa Deyo premiering several new pieces. His roles include the Mandarin in *The Miraculous Mandarin*, the Moor in *Petrushka*, Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker*, the Grandfather in *Peter and the Wolf*, and half of the true-love couple in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Blair became the Assistant Director of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo in late summer 2006. When he is not dancing, he is Professor of Materials Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Blair and his wife Cindy live in San Luis Obispo and have two children.



## Act One

A quaint 19th century village in central Europe is preparing for a festival the following day: a wealthy Lord has donated a new church bell and promised handsome dowries to any young girls who marry that day. On the balcony of Dr. Coppélius' Toy Shop sits the beautiful girl Coppélia reading a book. Swanilda tries in vain to get Coppélia to join her in the town square. Franz, Swanilda's fiancé, flirts shamelessly with Coppélia, who is really a life-size mechanical doll made by Dr. Coppélius. The doll responds by standing and blowing Franz a kiss. Annoyed with his flirting, Swanilda threatens to break their engagement. As the Mayor calls the villagers to a celebratory dance for the Lord, Franz makes matters worse by dancing with a village girl. Swanilda reluctantly joins her friends as they are introduced to the Lord as the ones who will marry the next day. The engaged couples then perform the custom of shaking a stalk of wheat to hear a special sound insuring true love. All except Swanilda hear the sound. When Franz makes light of it she throws the wheat on the ground. Swanilda dances with her friends ignoring Franz's attempts to get her attention. When Franz dances with yet another village girl, Swanilda is furious. Evening falls as Franz's friends are out to enjoy their last moments as free men. When Dr. Coppélius heads to the Tavern for his nightly drink, they tease him for amusement. During the roughhousing he loses his Toy Shop key. Swanilda and her friends discover the key, and they enter the Toy Shop. Franz returns, also curious about Coppélia and decides to find a ladder to climb up to the balcony. As Dr. Coppélius returns for the evening, he realizes he has lost his key and sees the Toy Shop door ajar. He creeps in to see what has happened. Franz returns with his ladder. Torn between Swanilda and Coppélia, he decides to ascend the ladder.

## A Romantic Ballet in Three Acts

Composer: Léo Delibes

Original Choreography: Arthur Saint-Léon;

Revised by Marius Petipa & Enrico Cecchetti

Additional Choreography & Staging: Theresa Slobodnik

Costume Design: Nancy Hopkins

Sets: Joe Bachelor, John Slobodnik & Tom Meadows

Lighting Design: Nathan Deack

### Cast (in order of appearance)

Coppélia - Melissa Arseneau

Tavern Keeper - Thomas Johantgen

Tavern Keeper's Wife - Daniella Eckert

Village Woman - Cindy London

Village Girls - Eliorah Becker, Maddy Perello,

Natalie Smith, Briana Weise

Village Boys - Holly Bloomfield, Celina Crane,

Cheyenne Hardiman, Lindsey MacDonald,

McKenna Nelson, Mia Patti,

Shelby Thomas, Rachel Warden

Mayor - Robert Lee Norton

Mayor's Wife - Carole Hess

Lord - Johnee Gange

Priest - Jim Carl

Dr. Coppélius - Blair London

Swanilda - Sheridan Torgerson

Franz - Wes Krukow

Franz's Friends - Randy Hose, Asael Picasso,

Scott Thompson, James Van Lommel

Mazurka & Czardas Leads - Jessica Cozzetto,

Laura Crane, Kellie Fryer,

Brooke Murphy, Brianna Thompson

Mazurka & Czardas Group - Carrie Cook,

Kate deKock, Mindy Dotzler, Olivia Handeland,

Rebecca Kensrue, Riva London,

Emily MacDonald, Bianca Mettler,

Daniela O'Donoghue, Mikayla Patti,

Roehlyn Quisao, Colette Willard,

Alexandra Wilson

Swanilda's Friends - Diandra Bachelor,

Sarah Chavez, Alice Gray, Michelle McLaughlin

(Laura Crane, understudy)

# *Léo Delibes'* Coppélia

## *Toy Shop Dolls*

*Acrobat* - Rachel Warden

*Toy Soldier* - Carrie Cook

*Harlequin* - Rebecca Kensrue

*Chinese* - Riva London

*Spanish* - Brianna Thompson

*Scottish* - Jessica Cozzetto

*Coppélia* - Melissa Arseneau



## *Act Two*

Inside the Toy Shop, Swanilda and her friends discover many life-size dolls. Swanilda looks behind a curtain and finds Coppélia still reading her book. She realizes that Coppélia too is only a doll. Swanilda and her friends set all the dolls in motion and dance with them. Suddenly, Dr. Coppélius bursts into the room. The terrified girls scatter and escape, except for Swanilda who unbeknownst to Dr. Coppélius has put Coppélia back behind the curtain and hidden there. As Dr. Coppélius tries to restore order to the plundered Toy Shop, Franz enters through the balcony window looking for Coppélia. Apprehended by Dr. Coppélius, Franz begs for mercy declaring his love for Coppélia. The old man then realizes he can conduct his greatest experiment: to transfer Franz's life force into his favorite doll. In the meantime, Swanilda has donned Coppélia's clothes and taken her place behind the curtain. Dr. Coppélius, thinking his dreams are about to come true, wheels her out and proceeds with his experiment. As Swanilda dressed as Coppélia begins to move, he is inspired. Her movements, at first stiff, become increasingly life-like as she follows Dr. Coppélius' every direction. While Dr. Coppélius is preoccupied, Swanilda desperately tries to wake Franz from his sleep at the workshop table. As Franz finally awakens, Swanilda reveals herself to Dr. Coppélius, and he realizes he has been fooled. Swanilda's friends return to rescue her and all escape as the old man is left heartbroken with his lifeless doll.

## Act Three

The day of the festival has arrived. The entire village is celebrating and awaiting the anticipated wedding ceremony.

After their night in the Toy Shop, Franz and Swanilda have resolved their quarrels and are ready to marry. As the ceremony ensues, Dr. Coppélius arrives, demanding compensation for the insult and damages perpetrated against him. Swanilda offers her dowry, but the Lord steps in and bestows double the amount on Dr. Coppélius. Satisfied, the old man retires to his Toy Shop and watches from the balcony as the festivities resume, and all rejoice in the happy union of Franz and Swanilda and other young couples.

*Village Men* - Christopher Ellwood,  
William Hughes

*Wedding Guests*  
Kellie Fryer, Brooke Murphy, Carrie Cook,  
Mindy Dotzler, Olivia Handeland, Colette  
Willard, Eliorah Becker, Maddy Perello,  
Natalie Smith, Briana Weise

*Marrying Couples*  
Diandra Bachelor & James Van Lommel,  
Sarah Chavez & Asael Picasso,  
Alice Gray & Scott Thompson,  
Michelle McLaughlin & Randy Hose

*Valse de Heures (Waltz of the Hours)*  
Brianna Thompson, Laura Crane,  
Kate deKock, Madison Dudley,  
Rebecca Kensrue, Riva London,  
Emily MacDonald, Bianca Mettler,  
Daniela O'Donoghue, Mikayla Patti,  
Roehlyn Quisao, Alexandra Wilson

*L'Aurore (Dawn)* - Jessica Cozzetto

*La Priere (Prayer)* - Melissa Arseneau

*Flower Girls* - Holly Bloomfield, Celina Crane,  
Cheyenne Hardiman, Lindsey MacDonald,  
McKenna Nelson, Mia Patti,  
Shelby Thomas, Rachel Warden

## Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo Company Dancers

Melissa Arseneau, Diandra Bachelor, Sarah Chavez, Carrie Cook, Jessica Cozzetto, Laura Crane,  
Kate deKock, Mindy Dotzler, Alice Gray, Olivia Handeland, Rebecca Kensrue,  
Wes Krukow, Blair London, Riva London, Emily MacDonald, Michelle McLaughlin,  
Bianca Mettler, Brooke Murphy, Daniela O'Donoghue, Mikayla Patti, Asael Picasso,  
Roehlyn Quisao, Brianna Thompson, Scott Thompson, Sheridan Torgerson,  
James Van Lommel, Rachel Warden, Colette Willard, Alexandra Wilson

## Guest Dancers

*GRADS* - Jim Carll, Carole Hess, Robert Lee Norton;  
*American Dancer* - Kellie Fryer; Daniella Eckert, Johnee Gange,  
Randy Hose, Thomas Johantgen, Cindy London

## Supporting Cast

Christopher Ellwood, William Hughes, Eliorah Becker, Holly Bloomfield, Celina Crane,  
Madison Dudley, Cheyenne Hardiman, Lindsey MacDonald, McKenna Nelson,  
Mia Patti, Maddy Perello, Natalie Smith, Shelby Thomas, Briana Weise

## Production Crew

### COSTUMES

Nancy Hopkins - *Costume Design, Construction & Wardrobe Mistress*

Kimberly Eaton - *Costume Design & Construction*

Theresa Slobodnik, Christina Kensrue & Cindy London - *Contributions*

### LIGHTING

Nathan Deack

### PROPS

Tom Meadows - *Prop Master & Construction*

Nancy Barkett, David Bloomfield, Theresa Cook, Christina Kensrue, Denise MacDonald, Rose Patti, Theresa Slobodnik & Sheri Thompson - *Contributions*

### SETS

John Slobodnik - *Set Design & Construction*

Maricela & Joe Bachelor - *Set Painting*

Hannah Slobodnik & Tom Meadows - *Contributions*

### PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Barry Goyette - *Photography & Graphic Design*

### YOPAC SHOW COMMITTEE

Lyné Bloomfield, Theresa Cook, Jeannie deKock, Cindy London, Denise MacDonald, Pam McLaughlin, Gabrielle Mettler, Cindy Nelson, Ruanne O'Donoghue, Molly Perello, Victoria Quisao, Sheri Thompson, Jackie Warden & Ann Wilson

### SPECIAL THANKS

Lissa Beck - *American Dance of SLO*

Graphics by Erick - *Program*

Blair London, Karen Shanley, Patricia Bart, Michelle Walter, Evelyn Kroeker, Thomas Johantgen & Leslie Baumberger - *Rehearsal Assistance*

James Van Lommel - *Rehearsal Videography & Sound Editing*

Jimmy de Photography - *Performance Photography & Videography*

Chris Hovis - *The Dance Shop*

Bob & Barbara Halon - *Hospitality*

## Financial Support

Contributors to Ballet Theatre SLO perform a crucial role in sustaining our activities. We could not have put *Coppélia* on the stage without your support. We thank you.

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([tslobonik@juno.com](mailto:tslobonik@juno.com))  
or call 544-2604 for  
information

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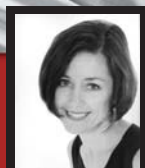
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