

DANCE OF THE PRIDE LANDS



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SYNOPSIS

As the Sapphire Sky gives way to a beautiful Sunrise on the Savannah, Rafiki calls the animals of the Pride Lands to Pride Rock. Rafiki greets King Mufasa and Queen Sarabi and presents their new young cub, named Simba.

Time passes and Simba grows into a lively young cub who aspires to be just like Mufasa. As they take a walk through the Grasslands, Mufasa explains that one day, the Sun will set on his time as King and will rise with Simba as the new king. Mufasa tells Simba that when that time comes, everything that the light touches will be part of his kingdom. Simba isn't interested in the responsibilities of being King and would rather play with Mufasa. Zazu, Mufasa's royal advisor tries to capture his attention to deliver his morning report on the state of affairs with all of the animals of the Pride Lands.

The Little Lion Cubs, Simba and his best friend Nala are frolicking about, when Simba decides he wants to prove how brave he is by sneaking away to The Outerlands, where his mother Sarabi has told him never to go. The Little Lion Cubs provide cover and Simba and Nala sneak off with Zazu frantically following them.

Simba and Nala explore, but swiftly regret their decision to disobey Sarabi when they are caught by the Shadows in the Graveyard. Zazu calls for Mufasa who saves Simba and Nala. They escape before the Geysers erupt and Mufasa sends Nala home, disappointed by Simba's disobedience. Amidst a Constellation filled sky, Mufasa tells Simba about his Ancestors, the great kings of the past, and how they watch over him from the stars above.

Back in The Outerlands, Mufasa's brother Scar is frustrated with his station in life. Scar devises a plan to kill Mufasa and Simba so he can become King, recruiting the help of the Blue Wildebeests and Hyenas. Scar lures young Simba back to The Outerlands and distracts Simba with a group of dancing Grasshoppers. A huge Stampede over takes Simba when Mufasa leaps into the fray, saving Simba, but Mufasa is unable to escape. Scar convinces Simba that his father's death was his fault and banishes him from the Pride Lands forever.

Simba runs away, making his way through unnavigable Jungle Vines and battling Buzzards who take him for dead. Simba collapses from exhaustion, but is awakened by Timon the meerkat and Pumbaa the warthog. At first the two are scared of the cub, but decide to take Simba to their jungle home and show him their carefree way of life.

Many years later, the Pride Lands have been decimated by drought under Scar's rule. Rafiki, Sarabi and the Lionesses continue to mourn the loss of Mufasa and Simba and are struggling to survive. Sarabi convinces Nala that she must leave the Pride Lands to seek help. Nala agrees, and begins her journey, intent on finding a way to restore the Pride Lands.

One day, while Timon, Pumbaa and Simba are enjoying the peaceful and vibrant Jungle, Nala comes across the trio and is elated to discover that Simba is alive. After their joyful reunion, Nala tells Simba about the devastation Scar has brought to Simba's beloved home. Nala reminds Simba that he is the one true king and must take his place in the Circle of Life before it is too late. Simba, still feeling responsible for Mufasa's death, refuses and runs to a nearby Oasis.

As Simba reflects on the decision he must make, he calls out to Mufasa for guidance. Remembering what Mufasa said, Simba realizes what he must do and begins the journey back to the Pride Lands. A gentle Wind carries Simba's song to Rafiki. Realizing Simba is alive, Rafiki dances with joy, knowing that Simba will restore the Pride Land's delicate balance.

Scar is frustrated and angry that he doesn't command the same respect from his subjects that Mufasa did. Scar's Madness consumes him just as Simba returns. Simba sends Timon and Pumbaa to distract the Hyenas so Simba and Nala can reach Pride Rock. An enraged Scar sets a Wildfire to burn it all down. Simba confronts Scar and the two Battle for Pride Rock.

The Hyenas, hungry and tired, abandon their position protecting Pride Rock allowing Simba to gain the upper hand. Simba pushes Scar into a gorge with the starving Hyenas, killing Scar and freeing the Pride Land from his oppressive rule.

Simba fully embraces his role as The Rightful King of the Pride Lands. The Sun of a new day appears and a cleansing Rainfall starts to restore the sense of balance in the Pride Lands and Simba fulfils his role in the Circle of Life.



PROLOGUE: THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

SAPPHIRE SKY

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Kendall Baker, Angelina Georgieva, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Audrey Nilsen, Emily Smith, Paige Thompson, Lauren Tworek, Ellie Zachwieja

SUNRISE ON THE SAVANNAH

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Elliot Bateman, Deirdre Derengowski, Zaryn Gaby, Addie Kenny, Zoe Maye, Elle McCormick, Mia Numani, Kallie Richards, Clara Schmehl, Elena Scorza, Gabriella Strugala, Lydia Wetendorf

THE SUN

Performed and choreographed by Amy Hobbs

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

SCENE 1: THE PRIDE LANDS

GRASSLANDS CHANT

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Juliana Alterio, June Ardito, Charlotte Chengary, Nora Hubert, Brooke Ipsen, Marie Kall, Maddy Mann, Mia Nasser, Eleanor Rosean, Natalie Wietzema

EVERYTHING THE LIGHT TOUCHES WILL BE YOURS...

ZAZU'S MORNING REPORT

Performed and choreographed by Emily Smith

MARCH OF THE BABY ELEPHANTS

Friday 7 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Vikki Barron

Phoebe Christopulos, Jacqueline Frede, Zoey Hristov, Kate Kosobucki, Yena Ryu, Caroline Smith
Dance leader: Lauren Pearson

Saturday 1 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Hadley Haberkorn, Siena Rose, Aubrey Sanchez, Lucia Blasi
Dance Leader: Elle McCormick

Saturday 4 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Rachel Vogeney

Grace Curran, Madilynn Ewald, Sabrina Fago, Emily Fahrenbacher, Ahna Gutierrez, Emma Ganger, Lydia Karnatz, Karis Knoch, Emma Lubelski, Layla Tselekis, Mae Wurzbarger
Dance leaders: Addie Kenny, Kallie Richards

GAZELLES

Teacher / Choreographer: Caryn Hobbs

Elaine Anastacio, Leah Cira, Kara Ipsen, Norah Martin, Annabelle Popowski, Lydia Rivera, Hayla Rotchford, Katelyn Thomas

SARABI'S VARIATION

Performed and choreographed by Audrey Nilsen

CHEETAHS

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Stella Palm, Lauren Pearson, Adeline Potsch, Olga Stewart

LIONESS HUNT

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Kendall Baker, Angelina Georgieva, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Audrey Nilsen, Emily Smith, Paige Thompson, Lauren Tworek, Ellie Zachwieja

LITTLE LION CUBS

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Olivia Foster, Violette Hansen, Ellsy Lagunas, Lydia Phan, Kathryn Rosean, Ainsley Welter, Angelina Yanong, Elizabeth Zielinski

CAN WE GO?

SCENE 2: THE OUTERLANDS

SHADOWS IN THE GRAVEYARD

Performed and choreographed by Madelyn Haffner, Amelie Mach, Sarah Stavnes, Ellie Zachwieja

MUFASA SAVES SIMBA AND NALA

Performed and choreographed by Mia Nasser

GEYSER

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Mamata Bosker, Xochitl Churi, Sara Conway, Sarah Frantz, Hannah Mundt, Stella Palm, Adeline Potsch

CONSTELLATION BALLET

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Kendall Baker, Mila Brandson, Angelina Georgieva, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Amy Hobbs, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Natalie Pearson, Sarah Stavnes, Paige Thompson, Lauren Tworek, Ellie Zachwieja

ANCESTORS

Teacher / Choreographer: Rachel Vogeney

Charlotte Chengary, Nora Hubert, Marie Kall, Maddy Mann, Eleanor Rosean, Freya Sirois

BLUE WILDEBEESTS

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Mila Brandson, Angelina Georgieva, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Audrey Nilsen, Natalie Pearson, Emily Smith, Sarah Stavnes

SCAR PLOTS WITH THE HYENAS

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

June Ardito, Nora Hubert, Brooke Ipsen, Marie Kall, Maddy Mann, Eleanor Rosean, Adeline Potsch

I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU....

GRASSHOPPERS

Friday 7 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Tara Schulz

Alaina Alterio, Yuika Hashimoto, Emily Ponce, Colette Schroeder

Saturday 1 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Tara Schulz

Charlotte Canavino, Lucy Haberkorn, Emily Rivera, Kathryn Rosean, Michelle Warner

Saturday 4 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Avery Fack, Makayla Jensen, Claire Machel, Charlotte Pettyjohn

Dance leader: Lydia Rivera

THE STAMPEDE / BANISHED

JUNGLE VINES

Teacher / Choreographer: Allison Bulson

Olivia Britto, Giuliana Freni, Maya Grzanka, Ava Lalich, Evie Lareau, Krysia Leoschke, Maria Olivares, Sandra Parys

BUZZARDS

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

June Ardito and Ellie Rosean

IT'S A LION!!

Performed and choreographed by Kendall Baker and Mila Brandson

- INTERMISSION -



PRIDE LANDS ENTR'ACTE

SCAR CLAIMS THE THRONE

NALA'S JOURNEY

Performed and choreographed by Lauren Tworek

SCENE 3: THE JUNGLE

BUTTERFLIES

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Mila Brandson, Angelina Georgieva, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Audrey Nilsen, Natalie Pearson, Emily Smith, Sarah Stavnes

FLAMINGO DANCE PARTY

Friday 7 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Caryn Hobbs

Emily Hobbs, Laura Johnson, Ioanna Kapsaskis, Catie Krupa, Clare Nolan, Ashlyn O'Brien, Cameryn Pastrana, Alexandra Szelewa, Veronika Wodzien, Maya Zongor

Saturday 1 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Tara Schulz

Katie Berg, Liv Blasi, Ava Budzik, Eleanore Doherty, Annabelle Kowal, Sofia Lewnard, Ellen Ziegenhorn

Saturday 4 p.m.

Teacher / Choreographer: Tara Schulz

Annalise Potsch, McKenna Ryan, Hazel Rytting, Kate Simon, Agnes Su

RIPPLING BROOK

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Stella Palm, Lauren Pearson, Adeline Potsch, Olga Stewart

SIMBA & NALA REUNITE

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Teacher / Choreographer: Rachel Vogeney

Madeline Aldworth, Ava Foster, Giuliana Freni, Ava Lalich, Krysia Leoschke, Hannah Mundt, Josephina Rotchford



SCENE 4: THE OASIS

REFLECTION

Teacher / Choreographer: Rachel Vogeney

Charlotte Chengary, Nora Hubert, Marie Kall, Maddy Mann, Eleanor Rosean, Freya Sirois

ENDLESS NIGHT

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Kendall Baker, Mila Brandson, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Sarah Stavnes, Paige Thompson, Lauren Tworek, Ellie Zachwieja

THE WIND

Performed and choreographed by Natalie Wietzema

RAFIKI'S REALIZATION

Performed and choreographed by Amelia Maglio

SCENE 5: RETURN TO THE PRIDELANDS

SCAR'S MADNESS

Performed and choreographed by Paige Thompson

WILDFIRE

Teacher / Choreographer: Linda Berry

Lainie Gudas, Daniela Kofler, Lucy Lanham, Lucia Mantas, Raina Patel

TIMON AND PUMBAA CREATE A DISTRACTION

THE BATTLE FOR PRIDE ROCK

THE RIGHTFUL KING

Performed and choreographed by Elizabeth Hitesman

SAVANNAH RAINFALL

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Juliana Alterio, June Ardito, Charlotte Chengary, Brooke Ipsen, Marie Kall, Maddy Mann, Mia Nasser, Eleanor Rosean, Natalie Wietzema

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Teacher / Choreographer: Amy Hubert

Kendall Baker, Mila Brandson, Angelina Georgieva, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Amy Hobbs, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Natalie Pearson, Sarah Stavnes, Paige Thompson, Lauren Tworek, Ellie Zachwieja

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mt. Prospect Park District, Executive Director:	Jim Jarog
Director of Recreation:	Nick Troy
Cultural Arts & Conservatory Manager:	Ann Zimmerman
Cultural Arts Coordinator:	Toria Smith
Artistic Director:	Amy Hubert
Instructors:	Vikki Baron Linda Berry Caryn Hobbs Amy Hubert Sue Lloyd Allison Bulson Tara Schulz Rachel Vogeney
Teaching Assistants:	Mila Brandson Mia Nasser Audrey Nilsen Paige Thompson
Costuming Volunteers:	Cathy Mackin
Stage Managers:	Jessica Cerepa Joanna Stasiek
Artwork and Design:	Caryn Hobbs
Promotional Posters:	Kylie Rack

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

...TO THE MEMBERS OF BALLET EXPRESSIONS

The Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet's touring repertoire company

June Ardito, Kendall Baker, Mila Brandson, Madelyn Haffner, Elizabeth Hitesman, Nora Hubert, Brooke Ipsen, Marie Kall, Kate Kremer, Amelie Mach, Amelia Maglio, Maddy Mann, Adeline Potsch, Eleanor Rosean, Lauren Tworek, Sarah Stavnes, Paige Thompson, Ellie Zachwieja

...TO OUR VERY SPECIAL DANCE LEADERS

Addie Kenny, Elle McCormick, Stella Palm, Lauren Pearson, Kallie Richards, Lydia Rivera

MT. PROSPECT SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL BALLET GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022



AMY HOBBS

Ever since I could walk, I would dance. It has polished me into the person I am now, and will never stop being a huge force in my life. However, I cannot talk about dance without bringing up the people that have supported me. My teachers have been my role models and I couldn't have asked for greater people to inspire me, not just in dance, but in life as well. They taught me how rewarding hard work is. They taught me a way to express myself and show a side of me that not many people see. My family and friends have been one of my biggest reasons to push myself. I want my sisters to have someone tough and artistic to look up to. I want my parents to know that their support throughout the years means the absolute world to me. The lengths that my grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends go to just to see these shows have shown me more love than I could ever repay. Let this be one last act for not only the people I hold close, but for myself as I start a new chapter in my life. I will need the biggest dorm that Illinois State University has to offer because I'll be dancing in there whenever my favorite song comes on. I don't know when I will get the chance to perform like this again, given that I plan to major in Game Design and minor in Information Technology. But I plan to put all of the creativity and inspiration this program has given me into many new projects.



LILLY HITESMAN

Looking back, I can hardly remember a time before ballet. It has always been a constant, playing such an important role in my life. I feel thankful to have been a part of the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet for the last fifteen years; I also cherish the last six years in which I have had the opportunity of dancing with *Ballet Expressions*. Debuting as Jack in *Into the Woods* in 2017 and now completing my career as Simba in *Dance of the Pride Lands*, I am moved by the impact that MPSCB and *BE* have had on my growth in nearly every facet of my life: all thanks to the wonderful faculty and the caring, supportive community that they work so hard to foster. In the coming fall, I look forward to attending the University of Wisconsin- Madison where I plan to study sociocultural anthropology and French. I would like to thank my fellow dancers for the priceless memories and bonds that we share, the faculty for their incredible guidance and inspiring artistry, and my parents and family for their endless love and encouragement.



AMELIA MAGLIO

I have been dancing since I was four years old. Dance plays a large role in who I am today. I admire and respect all my dance teachers. They have taught me so much, both in and out of the studio and I am truly grateful. I have had the privilege of dancing with Ballet Expressions for six years. The memories and friends I have made through the company will last a lifetime and I will miss everyone when I go to college in the fall. I am excited to perform as Rafiki in my last ballet, *Dance of the Pride Lands*. I'd like to thank my parents for always supporting me and allowing me to pursue what once was a hobby and is now a way of life for me. Thank you to the teachers who have helped nourish and teach me, I will miss you all dearly next year. Next year, I will be majoring in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue medicine.



MIA NASSER

Dancing has always been and forever will be a huge part of my life. I have been a dancer with Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet since I was five years old. Dance is where I have met some of my closest friends and learned all that I can. I want to thank my parents for supporting me and always encouraging me to be my best. I also want to thank all of the teachers in the program that have pushed me and inspired me throughout my life. I will miss everyone a ton! I am continuing my education at Penn State University, majoring in computer science and minoring in dance.



AUDREY NILSEN

I've been dancing since I was three years old. I started dancing with the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet in Miss Vikki's *Princess Ballerinas* class. I volunteered as a trainee for several years for Miss Vikki and now I am a teaching assistant in her class room! This was my first year as a member of Ballet Expressions. I made many wonderful memories and have met many amazing people dancing with MPSCB. Thank you to all of me of my teachers who have taught me throughout the years - I will miss you all so much! I will attend Iowa State University to study Interior Design next year.



EMILY SMITH

I have been dancing for as long as I can remember, and I am so thankful for all my years at the Mt Prospect School of Classical Ballet. From playing fairies and goblins as a beginning dancer to starting to train en pointe, I have enjoyed every minute. This program would not be what it is without the work of all the amazing dance instructors. Thank you for everything you do for this program and for all the support you've shown me over the years. I'd also like to thank my family for making it possible for me to be a part of this program and for always supporting me. Next year, I will be attending Harding University, where I will major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



PAIGE THOMPSON

I have danced with the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet for nine years and have been a part of *Ballet Expressions* for five years. Since putting my hand on the ballet barre for the very first time, my passion for dance has grown exponentially. I would like to thank the amazing faculty for pushing me to be the best dancer I can be, and Amy Hubert for her unique choreography and endless creativity she has put into the program. From playing a Lost Boy in *Peter Pan* to the Tin-Man in *Over the Rainbow*, I have loved learning about the artistry of ballet. The friendships I have made throughout my time at MPSCB are ones I will cherish forever. Thank you to my fellow dancers who have made every moment so special, I will miss you all very much. Next year I will be attending the University of Missouri, majoring in Biochemistry within the Honors College. Everything I have learned from this amazing program will continue to inspire me in the future. Finally, I'd like to thank my parents, family, and friends for being the best supporters and never



LAUREN TWOREK

The Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet has been part of my life since I was 3 years old. Since then, I have fallen in love with dance and the passion it ignites in me. Five years ago, I was invited into *Ballet Expressions* where my dedication to dancing only grew. I found a second family with my fellow dancers and incredible mentors from my teachers. I will miss every single one of you so much as I continue my schooling journey at the University of Wisconsin-Esau Claire where I'll continue to explore my choice of major. I want to thank my parents and brothers for their unconditional support, my friends for never missing a performance, my fellow dancers for making me laugh and smile even on the hardest days, and my teachers for helping me thrive not only as a dancer but a person. I am excited for this new chapter in life and can't wait to see what it brings!



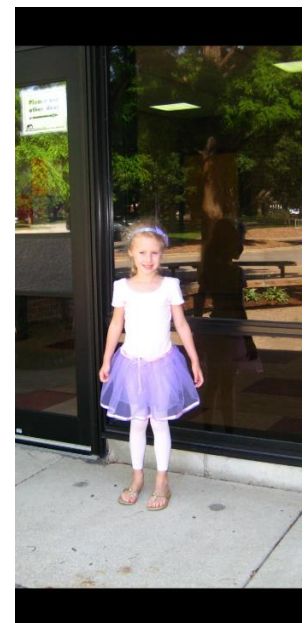
NATALIE WIETZEMA

The Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Being part of this program has not only taught me important skills in dance but in life as well. I'd like to thank my parents for always encouraging me and paying for all my classes, leotards, and new shoes. And for my family and friends who came out to support me at every show. I would also like to thank this program for the amazing faculty who put together a magical show every single year. I will definitely miss coming to practice and seeing all my best friends. Next year, I plan on majoring in Marketing. Thank you MPSCB for this incredible experience.



BEST WISHES TO THE 2022 SENIORS!

Pictured from left to right: Amy Hobbs, Elizabeth Hitesman, Mia Nasser, Audrey Nilsen, Amelia Maglio, Emily Smith, Lauren Tworek, Paige Thompson, Natalie Wietzema



WE WILL MISS YOU ALL SO MUCH!!

A LETTER OF THANKS

We would like to thank the entire staff of the Mt. Prospect Park District for all of their efforts in support of this production.

We sincerely wish to thank all **PARENTS** for their constant support, over the course of this year especially. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help prepare for performance, to work backstage and to assist us with the many important final details to bring “Dance of the Pride Lands” to the stage. Your efforts make the difference and are very much appreciated!

And finally, a very important thank you to all of the **DANCERS**... for their enthusiasm, dedication, hard work and resilience dancing through a pandemic. What a remarkable, creative group of young dancers. We are thrilled to see you return to the Prairie Center stage and are so very grateful to have the opportunity to share this wonderful learning experience with you. It is such a joy to see how much each student has grown both as a dancer and as a person over the course of the year. We are very proud of you and will always cherish these memories.

Bravo to the entire cast! What an accomplishment!
We look forward to the 2023 performance season with great anticipation!

Fondly,
The faculty of the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet

