



PHOTO: CELESTE ELWOOD

HAVE A PHOTO? Submit it to River City for publication in this space: RiverCity@yankton.net.

# 'Sleeping Beauty'

## Classic Ballet Presented At Summit Center This Weekend

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

For three cast members, there's no rest for "Sleeping Beauty."

The teens – Rachel Frick, Elle Hiltunen and Samantha Kanaly – are rotating the lead role of Princess Aurora and the supporting roles of the Bluebird and as a dancer in waltz scenes. In addition, McKenna Golden dances the other lead as the Lilac Fairy. The production features 16 solos.

The Academy of Dance in Yankton is performing the classic story this weekend at the Yankton High School theatre. The shows are set for 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Director Dorota Dannenbring brings her unique dance talents and background to the performance. She was trained as a professional dancer in her native Poland, and she now owns and teaches at the Academy of Dance. The 130 cast members in "Sleeping Beauty" range in age from first grade through adult.

"I love Yankton, and I enjoy working with so many talented people," she said.

Dannenbring decided the three-dancer rotation would showcase a number of girls and their various talents. However, she didn't hold any particular dancers in mind when she went with the multiple roles.

"I didn't recruit anyone. I stayed away from selecting the dancers," she said. "All of the dancers needed to apply for the production. For the au-



LEFT: Three dancers — from left, Samantha Kanaly, Elle Hiltunen and Rachel Frick — will play the lead role of Princess Aurora in this weekend's three performances of "Sleeping Beauty" by the Academy of Dance. ABOVE: The Lilac Fairy (McKenna Golden, left) confronts the evil Carabosse (Alleysia Ugofsky) in a scene from the ballet, which will be presented at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

ditions, we hired professional judges. We had three judges who held the tryouts. They did it right after Riverboat Days (in August), and they selected the dancers for all of the roles."

That said, the three dancers rotating the lead roles said they love "Sleeping Beauty" and enjoy sharing the spotlight. They drew to see who performed the roles at a particular performance.

Dancing is nothing new for the trio, as they each started at age 3.

Frick performed in the "Nutcracker Suite" last year

and a different role in "Sleeping Beauty" two years ago.

"I started performing in first grade, but this is the first year that I have been in the lead," she said.

She likes the idea of three different persons playing a lead role. She enjoys the challenge of tackling three different roles during three performances in two days.

"At times, it's fun to do a lot of different things," she said.

She also enjoys the camaraderie of working with such a large cast of all ages.

"We have a lot of beautiful

dancers. I love them all," she said. "And we have humble dancers. We support everyone else, whether they're a star or not."

Kanally expressed a similar passion for ballet. "I have danced all my life. I especially love to dance as Aurora," she said.

Golden has found the production to be challenging, and it has filled her with nervous energy. However, she enjoys the bond which has developed among the dancers after the three months of rehearsals.

"I consider it a blessing to dance with my friends. We

encourage each other," she said.

Dannenbring said she hasn't found difficulty casting boys for roles. The males include 10 younger boys and five Yankton High School students. The YHS boys include Syd Boots, Jared Rafferty, Blake Savey, Gabe Dannenbring and Josh Galvan-Hofer.

The five high school boys represent a mix of dance experience. Some have performed before, including the "Nutcracker," while others are making their debut. They said they prefer to remain in the background, leaving the spot-

light for the girls in the cast. However, the boys are glad to be part of the production.

Dorota Dannenbring said the boys play an important part in the show for two different reasons.

"We need them for lifts and for certain roles," she said. "But they are also part of this (production) for offering friendship and support for the rest of the cast."

The offering of friendship and support also works in other ways, Dannenbring said.

SLEEPING | PAGE 10B

This week at

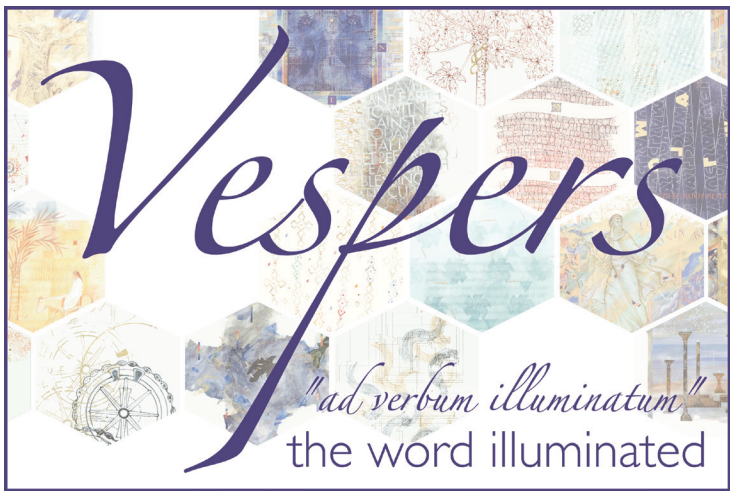
## MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE

Join us for any and all of our events this fall semester! Learn more at [www.mtmc.edu](http://www.mtmc.edu).

Bede Art Gallery | Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm | Mount Marty College Student Art Show | November 23 - December 11

The Saint John's Bible on display in MMC Library | Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am - 10 pm | Fri: 7:30 am - 5 pm | Sat: 1- 5 pm | Sun: 1-10 pm

NOV. 21 - NOV. 27



Sunday, December 6, 2015 | 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel

Fontanini Christmas Village on Display Starting  
Monday, November 30, 2015 | MMC Board Room



### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

2:00 PM Women's Basketball - Doane College - Crete, NE  
4:00 PM Men's Basketball - Doane College - Crete, NE  
7:30 PM MMC/USD Choral Concert - Bishop Marty Chapel  
TBD Women's Cross Country - NAIA National Meet - Charlotte, NC

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

4:00 PM Mass - Peace Chapel

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

7:30 PM Choral Union Rehearsal - Gregory Hall

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

3:30 PM JV Women's Basketball - Dakota Wesleyan University - Mitchell, SD  
4:00 PM Thanksgiving Food Basket Blessing - The Raven  
6:00 PM Yankton Children's Choir Rehearsal - Bistro  
6:00 PM Women's Basketball- Dakota Wesleyan University - Mitchell, SD  
8:00 PM Men's Basketball - Dakota Wesleyan University - Mltchell, SD  
9:30 PM Rosary - Peace Chapel

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Thanksgiving Break - No Classes

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving - Offices Closed

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Thanksgiving - Offices Closed



MOUNT MARTY  
COLLEGE

Follow us on Facebook for details on our events!



/MOUNTMARTYCOLLEGE

1105 WEST 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET | YANKTON, SD | 1-855-MtMARTY (686-2789) | [MTMC.EDU](http://MTMC.EDU)