

Little Dancer

A New Musical



starring

Tiler Peck

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sneak
peek](#)



In association with
The Kennedy Center & 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle)

Who Was That Girl?



This question haunts admirers of Degas' sculpture, "Little Dancer Aged 14," the world over.

Moved by the sculpture and the inevitable question it elicits, our creative team was inspired to come together to create an original musical combining what we know with what they imagined might have been.

We know that in 1881, just as he was beginning to lose his eyesight, the great artist Edgar Degas exhibited his tough, inspiring, and uncompromising sculpture of a young ballerina. The unprecedented work incited a scandal, and the disgraced Degas kept the sculpture (now recognized as a seminal work of art) from the public eye for the rest of his life.

We know that soon after the exhibition and the scandal, the girl who posed for the sculpture was dismissed from the Paris Opera Ballet. She vanished into the Parisian slums, and her fate has been obscured by time.

**Who was that girl?
Her name was Marie Van Gothem.**

THIS IS HER STORY.

Why Little Dancer?

Little Dancer is an original musical. Set in the glamorous, yet dangerous, backstage world of the Paris Opera Ballet, this part fact/part fiction musical follows Marie, a headstrong young dancer caught between the demands of her dance dreams, her impoverished family, and her modeling for Degas. The show blends the best of fine art, ballet, and musical theater in a story created for theatergoers of all ages.

Little Dancer is an event for our times exploring the travails of artists and the indomitable spirit of women.



Little Dancer brings ballet star Tiler Peck back to the musical theater stage! Tiler is an award-winning principal dancer with New York City Ballet, actress/choreographer (film, TV, Broadway), author, social media star, and designer. She performed twice at the Kennedy Center Honors, was named to *Forbes* 2013 list "30 under 30 in Hollywood Entertainment," and won the Princess Grace and Dance Magazine Awards. During Covid, she developed/produced a daily ballet class, *#TurnItOutWithTiler*, which brings aspiring dancers and celebrities together to keep them connected and moving.

Creative Team

BOOK & LYRICS/MUSIC
LYNN AHRENS
STEPHEN FLAHERTY



TONY AWARD WINNERS
Ragtime, Once on This Island,
Anastasia, Rocky, Chita Rivera: A
Dancers Life, Seussical...

DIRECTOR
CHOREOGRAPHER
SUSAN STROMAN



TONY AWARD WINNER
New York, New York, POTUS,
Contact, The Producers, The
Scottsboro Boys, Showboat,
Oklahoma!, Crazy For You...

SET DESIGN
BEOWULF BORITT



TONY AWARD WINNER
POTUS, Flying Over Sunset,
Act One, Come From Away,
Sunday in the Park with
George, The Scottsboro
Boys...

LIGHTING DESIGN
KEN BILLINGTON



TONY AWARD WINNER
Chicago, Sweeney Todd,
Sunday in the Park with
George, The Scottsboro
Boys, The Drowsy
Chaperone...

COSTUME DESIGN
WILLIAM IVEY LONG



TONY AWARD WINNER
Cinderella, Hairspray,
Grey Gardens, Chicago,
The Producers, Cabaret,
Crazy For You, Nine, La
Cage aux Folles...

Producing Team

GENERAL PARTNERS



ANITA WAXMAN



JANA SHEA



TEGAN SUMMER



SHARON A. CARR & PATRICIA R. KLAUSNER

Team Producing History

Anastasia, Aspects of Love, Bullets Over Broadway, Burn the Floor, Cabaret (revival), Cinderella, Come From Away, The Band's Visit, Dr. Zhivago, Escape From Margaritaville, The Front Page (revival), The Glass Menagerie (Sally Fields), Gypsy (Bernadette Peters), Hello Dolly (Bette Midler), Holler If Ya Hear Me, Hughie (Forest Whitaker), Jersey Boys, Life of Pi, Mozart: Her Story, Moulin Rouge!, Rocky, Parade, Passover, Pippin (revival), POTUS, Sea Wall/A Life, The Scottsboro Boys, Slave Play, Stick Fly, Thoughts of a Colored Man, Time Stands Still, Tina, Trip to Bountiful, What the Constitution Means to Me, 1984

Production Team

GENERAL MANAGEMENT



Daniel Kuney
Shira Wolf

MARKETING



Michael Hartman

DIGITAL MARKETING



Mike Karns

PRESS RELATIONS



Rick Miramontez

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT



Hillary Blanken

Review Quotes

From the Kennedy Center Production...

Wall Street Journal: "In the age of Disney and Spiderman, "Little Dancer" is a musical that's about something—in fact, several things—that matter. The musical, a radically and beautifully imaginative example of the form, tells the tale of a gritty, one-step-from-the-gutter aspiring ballerina in the La Belle Epoch Paris Opera Company who inspired Impressionist painter and sculptor Eduard [Edgar] Degas to create one of his most enduring works, the sculpture "Little Dancer Aged Fourteen".



From Seattle 5th Avenue Production...

Seattle Times: "...the extended dance number "The Choices" exhibits the vivid theatricality you'd expect from Stroman, given her choreographic ingenuity in "The Producers" and so many other shows. In this late Act 2 set piece, Marie has been kicked out of the ballet company and is plagued by surreal images of laundress drudges tugging on one end of her fears, and scandalous cancan dancers and lascivious swells tugging on the other. Akin to the groundbreaking "dream ballets" created by Agnes de Mille for "Carousel" and "Oklahoma!," this nightmarish fantasia expresses in music and movement the dark choices faced by "les petits rats" (French slang for these ballerinas)."

Review Quotes

From Seattle 5th Ave Production (continued)...

Broadwayworld.com: "...What they have is a bona fide, must see, must cry throughout, accept no substitutes, hit in the making and a definite addition to my list of shows I was honored to catch early on. ...With my three-letter rating system (you know it's going to happen), I give "Marie, Dancing Still" (here it comes) at the 5th Avenue Theatre a "what are you waiting for, why haven't you ordered your tickets yet???" ...I mean I guess you could wait until it's on Broadway and has won all the Tony's and tickets are impossible to get..."

Themoderatevoice.com: "In [the] climactic dance number, I found myself fully within the work, not wanting the song, the dance or the message to end. It was one of those transcendent moments that only live theater can offer, when the heart and the motivation of the creators of the work come alive in the room."

Talkinbroadway.com: "Marie, Dancing Still, a dazzling and unabashedly sentimental delight at the 5th Avenue Theatre, received an honest to goodness, well deserved standing ovation at the performance I attended. I was among the first to leap up. This musical enchants and dances all night long."



production photos by Paul Kolnik