

*Neglia Ballet Artists  
Presents*

# *Baba Yaga*



*Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:30 am*

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## **About Neglia Ballet Artists**

Neglia Ballet Artists takes its name from its co-directors, the married couple of Sergio Neglia and Heidi Halt. Sergio Neglia was born in Argentina where he started his ballet training at the age of seven, and continued in New York at the School of American Ballet. There he won the approval and encouragement of George Balanchine, who directed the New York City Ballet and was one of the great choreographers of this century. The Neglia family name continues the legacy of Sergio's father, who was one of the most famous dancers in Argentina and a principal dancer in the ballet company of the Colon Theatre in Buenos Aires, where his mother danced as well.

In September of 1994 Sergio and Heidi opened the Neglia Conservatory of Ballet to introduce Western New York dance students to a new level of classical training. The Conservatory has been very successful at identifying and developing young ballet talent throughout the region. In 1999 the couple established a performing company called Neglia Ballet Artists. Widely acclaimed, the Buffalo News praised NBA's recent performance with the Buffalo Philharmonic at Artpark with terms such as "near flawless" and "ballet brilliance." This dynamic performing ensemble is now in its eighth year of mounting professional dance productions using a core group of dancers, professional guest artists, and advanced students from the Conservatory

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## **About Baba Yaga**

Baba Yaga is one of the most important figures in Russian folklore, she appears, in one form or another, in hundreds of folktales. Sometimes she is the fearsome witch, as in this story, but sometimes is kind and even helpful. She is so familiar to Russian children that she's almost a member of the family. Neglia Ballet's production is a feast for the eyes, ears and imagination, with beautiful and eerie sets, colorful costumes, magical lighting affects and the music of three Russian Masters: Mussorgsky, Stravinsky and Glazunov. Appropriate for first grade and up.

## **Main Characters**

**Baba Yaga:** The fearsome witch

**Misha:** a lost girl in the woods

**Crow:** Baba Yaga's pet who helps her

**Father:** Misha's father who searches the woods for her

**Step Mother:** Misha's evil stepmother who sends her into the woods

**Bumblebee:** Helps Misha to escape the evil witch

**The time and place:** Deep in the darkest woods of Russia

**Choreographer:** Sergio Neglia

**Music:** Mussorgsky, Glazunov, Greig & Stravinsky

**Lighting Designer:** Dyan Burlingame

**Costume Design & Construction:** Donna Massimo & Barbara Kumor

**Set Designer:** Mark DiVincenzo & David Butler

**Chicken Leg Designer/Fabricator:** Michele Costa

## **SYNOPSIS**

Misha is a sweet young girl with a horrible stepmother who expects her to constantly work in the house. The scene opens with Misha alone in the house reluctantly scrubbing the floor. Her kind father surprises her by coming home early from work and they get carried away playing a game of hide and seek. Suddenly the stepmother enters and is furious at what she encounters. She demands Misha to go to the forest to search for some berries knowing full well what lurks in the forest: Baba Yaga her evil sister!

In the forest woodland creatures exist in their peaceful surroundings. But something foreboding threatens to disrupt their serenity. As Misha, tries to find her way home through the forest, a sinister darkness develops. The evil witch, Baba Yaga, bursts upon the scene, flying in her magical cauldron. With her bevy of crows they come upon poor, lost Misha. Not sympathetic to her plight, Baba Yaga instead sees Misha as a tasty morsel to savor and lures Misha to her strange cottage built on chicken legs. Misha is held captive and harassed by Baba Yaga's creepy entourage of Ravens, Skeletons and Baba Yaga's apprentice.

While Baba Yaga is resting, Misha is nearly rescued by friendly forest creatures, but they are scared away when Baba Yaga awakens. Finally just as Misha's destiny seems to be doomed her father comes to rescue her. He challenges Baba Yaga and prevails leaving Baba Yaga ashamed of her evil behavior.

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## Things to think about

*Choreographer: A person who puts movements together to create ballet*

When the choreographer tells a story, he or she gives voice to the story through movement. The movement takes place within the space of the stage. The choreographer must decide which scenes from the conventional story to select to portray the plot.

*Composer: A person who writes music*

There are several composers of the music to Baba Yaga. This ballet is marvelously enriched by the added texture of the music of Mossursky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" and "Night on Bald Mountain", Stravinsky's "Firebird", Grieg's "Peer Gynt" and Glazonov's "Seasons". The music cues all the events and the movements of the dance. Listen for recurrent musical themes.

*Set designer: Some one who creates scenery*

A set designer's job is to create a stage setting that is realistic to the historical period of the ballet being created. Although the scenery needs to look realistic, it must be made of light materials so scenes can be changed easily. Can you guess what the chicken legs are made of and how they move?

*Costume designer: Someone who designs and makes costumes*

Like the set designer, a costume designer must make costumes suitable to the time period of the ballet. Again costumes must look realistic, but they must be made so the dancers have full range of motion in their, legs, arms, and torso.

## **Performance Etiquette:**

### Entrance and Exit:

1. Make your building entries as smooth as possible. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the performance.
2. Leave all books, book bags, and backpacks on the bus.
3. Your teachers and chaperones will accompany you in and out of the building. Please be attentive and respond quickly to directions.

### Courtesy:

1. Once you find your seat, you can look around and talk quietly about all the things you see in the Theatre.
2. Once the performance begins, please watch and listen quietly. Talking and distracting movements prevent you and your neighbors from enjoying the performance.
3. Talking, giggling and whispering are distracting to the performers on stage.
4. The performers can hear you even when they are dancing! PLEASE respect that they are working hard to give you a great performance.
5. Applause is your way of showing how much you like the performance. Clap at the end of scenes and especially at the end of the performance. Applause is the best way to show your appreciation.

**ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE!  
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
NEGLIA BALLET ARTISTS!**

