Richmond Ballet, The State Ballet of Virginia, is dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and continuing evolution of the art form of ballet. Richmond Ballet strives to keep meaningful works of dance alive and to produce and foster new works that remain true to these values.

In 1980, Ms. Stoner Winslett became the founding artistic director and continues to lead and manage the organization today. Richmond Ballet was the first professional ballet company in Virginia and was designated The State Ballet of Virginia in 1990, by then Governor Wilder.

Richmond Ballet aspires to help transform our world through the unique and special power of dance. Through the work of Richmond Ballet, this community will continue to move towards one that universally respects the value of human life, both physical and emotional; the power of cooperation and mutual respect; the work ethic and discipline required to achieve anything truly meaningful; and the joy of existing in a compassionate community.

**The Mission of Richmond Ballet is**

**To awaken and uplift the human spirit, both for audiences and artists.**

The Lecture Demonstration brings the language of dance into schools across Virginia. Our in-school adaptations of classic ballets provide unique opportunities to see professional dancers up close and personal. Designed specifically for young audiences, our 45-minute reimagined story ballets provide students with invaluable opportunities to interact with professional dancers. Complete with music, a narrator, and a small cast of dancers, our interactive, high-quality performances introduce students to the language of ballet through a combination of storytelling and dance.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Richmond Ballet will present an adaptation of *Swan Lake*. Children will be enchanted by the story of Odette, the beautiful maiden who is transformed into a swan by a sorcerer, and Odile, her evil counterpart. Incorporating humor and audience engagement, the Jester narrates this story of magic, mystery, and the power of true love.
4 - Swan Lake Summary
7 - Story Sequencing Activity
11 - What Animal Would You Be?
12 - Matching Activity
13 - Origami Swans
15 - Word Search
16 - Answer Keys
19 - Coloring Sheet

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Swan Lake was originally performed in Moscow in 1877. The score was choreographed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky at the request of the Imperial Bolshoi Theatre. Swan Lake is inspired by European and Russian stories of maidens who had been transformed into birds. The ballet evolved over time and a great deal of alternate endings were choreographed. The roles of Odette and Odile are danced by the same ballerina.

**Composer**

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was a Russian composer. His work was popular among the general public for his relatable tunes. His countless compositions include eleven operas and three ballets. During his lifetime in Russia he was adored, but throughout Europe and the United States his critics were many. His compositions brought the large-scale qualities of symphony to ballet and changed how story ballets were composed and choreographed, from grand gesture to a staged story.

**Choreographer**

Nicholas Beriozoff (1906–1996) was born in 1906 in Lithuania. He studied in Czechoslovakia and danced with the Prague Opera Ballet and the Lithuania National Ballet. He joined the Rene Blum Company in Monte Carlo in 1935, was with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1938, and became Ballet Master with Marquis de Cuevas’ Ballet International in 1944. Later he became Ballet Master of Metropolitan Ballet (England) and of London’s Festival Ballet (1951-54), staging Petrouchka, The Nutcracker, Scheherazade, Prince Igor, and his own version of Esmerelda. He became the Director of the Zurich Ballet in 1962, and in 1972 he mounted several Fokine works for the Paris Opera Ballet as a filmed record. In addition to Swan Lake, he also staged Don Quixote for Richmond Ballet.
**SWAN LAKE SYNOPSIS**

**PROLOGUE**
**The Shore of a Lake**
The young princess Odette is gathering flowers near a lake. Reaching out to pick an exquisite white blossom, she encounters von Rothbart, an evil sorcerer, who maliciously transforms her into a swan.

**ACT I**
**Outside the Castle**
Celebrating his 21st birthday with friends, Prince Siegfried is interrupted by his widowed mother, the reigning Queen, who reminds him that his coming of age is a serious matter. It is time for him to marry and tend to affairs of state. Although the revelry resumes after his mother leaves, Siegfried is disconsolate at the thought of his carefree youth slipping away. Noticing a flock of swans flying across the evening sky, he decides to leave the festivities, hoping to relieve his melancholy mood by hunting the swans.

**ACT II**
**The Shore of a Lake**
Arriving at the shore of von Rothbart’s lake, Siegfried chances upon a beautiful swan who miraculously changes into a lovely young maiden right before his eyes. Her name is Odette and she, like her companion swans, is held captive under von Rothbart’s spell. Allowed to resume human form for only one hour at midnight, she unhappily explains to the Prince that only the love of a faithful man can break the spell. Siegfried, already deeply in love with her, promises he is that man and swears to bring her freedom. As the hour passes, Odette is once more transformed into a swan as von Rothbart, who has been lurking nearby, carries her away, determined to make the Prince break his vow.
ACT III
The Castle Ballroom
The following evening, six young maidens are presented to Prince Siegfried at his coming-of-age celebration. To his mother’s annoyance, he refuses all of them. Suddenly, von Rothbart, disguised as a knight and accompanied by gypsies, appears with his heartless daughter, Odile, who has been transformed to resemble the lovely Odette. Bewitched and blinded, Siegfried believes Odile to be his swan princess, and he swears eternal love for her. Gloating in triumph because Siegfried has broken his vow, von Rothbart reveals Odile’s true nature and leaves the astonished court. Realizing he has been deceived, Siegfried desperately rushes out of the castle toward the lake, hoping to redeem himself in the eyes of his beloved Odette.

ACT IV
The Shore of a Lake
Now that the Prince has broken his vow, the enchanted swan maidens have given up all hope of freedom from von Rothbart’s spell. Siegfried arrives searching frantically for the distraught Odette and begs her forgiveness. The enraged von Rothbart swoops down on the frightened lovers, causing a great storm over the lake. Filled with power instilled by his great love for Odette, the Prince overcomes the evil sorcerer. The spell is broken, Odette becomes a princess again – this time forever – and the couple is united to live happily ever after.
STORY SEQUENCING ACTIVITY
FOR PRIMARY GRADES

Following the Lecture Demonstration of *Swan Lake* discuss with the class what happened. There are two story sequencing activity options for differentiation. After completing this activity, students may read their book to a friend or take it home to share with their families.

**Option 1**
Students can make a book using the sentences provided and gluing them onto each story page. Students will need two pages of the template for the eight sentences.

**Option 2**
Make multiple copies of the storybook template. Each event, or moment, in the story should have its own page. Students write the story in their own words. Be sure to include a blank page for their book cover.

**NOTE:** Teachers may want to set parameters for the minimum and maximum pages in a student’s story. Teachers may also want to have students cut out the storybook page first so that no writing is cut off or cut the page in half so the pages are ready for writing and no cutting is necessary.
A ball is held to celebrate the Prince’s birthday

A sorcerer transforms Odette and her friends into swans

Siegfried goes hunting in the woods

Siegfried and Odette meet and fall in love

True love breaks the curse and Odette is transformed back to a maiden

Swan Lake, illustrated by
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WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU BE?

If you could transform into an animal, what would you want to be transformed into? Draw a picture and write why you chose that animal.
Odette and Odile are opposites; can you match up these opposites? The first one is done for you!

MATCHING ACTIVITY

NIGHT  COLD
HOT  EMPTY
FULL  SOFT
LIGHT  BIG
BLACK  APART
SHORT  DAY
HARD  DARK
SMALL  BOTTOM
TOGETHER  HIGH
LOW  WHITE
TOP  SLOW
FAST  TALL
ORIGAMI SWAN ACTIVITY

1. Fold in half diagonally.

2. Reopen and fold the 2 corners to the center line.

3. Flip over and fold the 2 sides to the center line again.

4. Fold the top point of the triangle down to the bottom.

5. Fold the swan in half to create the body.

7. 8. 9. Fold the neck of the swan up and bend it however you would like!
### WORD SEARCH

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WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Richmond Ballet believes that a performance is a gift to the audience. Often when we receive a gift we write a thank you note. Our dancers, choreographers, designers and production staff have been rehearsing and working hard to make sure today’s performance was just right. Tell us what you liked best. Who was your favorite character? Have you ever been to a ballet performance? Use the thought bubbles below to brainstorm some ideas.

What did you like about seeing Richmond Ballet?
RICHMOND BALLET

SWAN LAKE