

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Ballet production a swashbuckling adventure

VACAVILLE — There be pirates in the Vacaville Ballet Company's production of "Mutiny!" this weekend.

Artistic Director Cassandra Kamakeeiana hopes audience members will ask themselves, "What are you willing to lose and take from others in order to gain your precious treasure?"

The story follows the captain, who has an ever-consuming need for more gold, and her first mate, on the open sea. The gold serves as replacement for the captain's "heart."

On their last raid, the crew finds the family that holds the last piece of the treasure map. Some of the pirates don't want to shed any more innocent blood and take a stand against the captain and her blind greed. They are thrown overboard.

The beaten mutineers yearn for reassurance that there is more to life than meager attempts to find earthly riches.

Piled in a dingy, they are taken in by the sea, where they meet mermaids. With help from the mermaids, the crew members discover some things about themselves. They also find land, waking up on a sandy shore. It's the same land where the treasure resides and they aren't alone. The captain's crew is also there.

The race is on to see who will find the treasure first.

"Mutiny!" includes music from Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" soundtracks.

Kamakeeiana drew story inspiration from dramatic and diverse music and a childhood filled with classics such as Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island."

Her own personal views and life experiences served as the foundation of story, she said in press materials.

The captain's role is shared by Abby Sculley and Macie La Grand. Handling first mate duties are Katelyn Reid and Victoria Joyce.

Jill Oates and Angelica Bouzos play the enchanted mermaid.

The Vacaville Ballet Company was founded in 1994 by Jamie Zimmerman, a member of the San Francisco Ballet Company, where she was a principal dancer.

Heide LuMaye, who had served as the company's artistic director, purchased the Vacaville Ballet Theatre Academy in 2006. Kamakeeiana took over as artistic director in 2013. She opened a new school earlier this year, the Royal School of Ballet, the new home for Vacaville Ballet Company.

Maginnis-Honey, Amy. "Ballet production a swashbuckling adventure." *Daily Republic*. [Fairfield-Suisun]. 16 May 2014. B1.