

# NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

## **Vacaville Ballet Company presents swashbuckling Mutiny!**

Johnny Depp in a tu-tu? Arrrghhhh.

Well, not quite. But the Vacaville Ballet Company does feature the soundtrack to Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean movies with its latest production, "Mutiny!" tonight through Sunday at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.

The pirate-themed pirouette purveying play is penned by artistic director Cassie Kamakeeiana.

Though happy to write the original production, "I was leaning more toward Robin Hood, they wanted pirates," Kamakeeiana said. "So I wrote a pirate ballet."

Eye patches and swords and skull and crossbones isn't just for the boys. Girls go for 'em too, Kamakeeiana said.

"I think everybody loves pirates," she said.

It's all about the adventure, Kamakeeiana said, and in this one it's about the captain's thirst for gold and the search for a treasure map. And lest we forget about mermaids.

In the double-cast, Vacaville High School's Abby Sculley and Vanden's Macie La Grand play the Captain, with the First Mate performed by Vacaville Christian High School junior Katelyn Reid and Will C. Wood sophomore Victoria Joyce.

The mermaids are led by Winters High School senior Jill Oates and Justin-Sienna senior Angelica Bouzos.

Kamakeeiana, who has "loved ballet since I was a child," said the theme and the dancers may change, the production process remains constant.

"Making everything done on time, making sure you stay on tasks, and don't get distracted and overwhelmed," she said. "There are so many aspects to a show."

For the young student, getting that first production down "is huge," Kamakeeiana said. "Once they've done it and gone through the motions," it's easier for child and parent.

"They know where you're supposed to bring the kid, what days are dress rehearsals. The first show, you try not to bombard them," Kamakeeiana said.

As for the pirate theme, the kids couldn't wait.

"They were ecstatic," Kamakeeiana said. "Very excited."

Scripting an original production lets Kamakeeiana run wild with her own imagination, she said.

"There are no limits. It's just like telling a story," she said. "You get the outline in your head and tweak it as you go if something doesn't make sense. And put the details in as you go."

Of course, with children involved, "you make sure it's not too dark or too much killing or bloodshed."

The 7 p.m. performance tonight, a 1 and 7 p.m. performance Saturday and 1 p.m. finale Sunday is enough for the young dancers, Kamakeeiana.

"It's hard on a dancer's body, a lot on their joints," she said.

The age range goes from 4 to 23, said Kamakeeiana, and yes, patience is a virtue when it comes to the young ones.

"But they're cute, though, so it's worth it," she said.

Freedman, Richard. "Vacaville Ballet Company presents swashbuckling Mutiny!" *The Vacaville Reporter*. 15 May 2014. WEB.