

MOMENTA
DANCE COMPANY

presents



The
Empress
and her
New Clothes

Featuring
Junior Company Dancers

March 11, 12, 18, 19, 2023

Doris Humphrey Memorial Theater
Academy of Movement and Music
605 Lake Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

The *Empress* and her *New Clothes*

Created and Directed in 2013 by
Sarah Najera

Restaged and Directed in 2023 by
Sarah Najera

Choreography by
**Tatiana Castañeda, Mei-kuang Chen,
Connor Cornelius, and Gina Sigismondi**

Costumes based on the original by
Jen Bolino and Sarah Najera

Music and sound editing by
Joe Kreml and Gino Sigismondi

Lighting by
Diane Fairchild



Cast

The Empress

Ladonna Freidheim

The Prime Minister

Dan Deziel

Tailors/Swindlers

Mary Kelly & Michael Allen Rose

Members of the Court

Lady Elaine

Megan Chrisman

Lady Karmina

Atessa Ferrigno

Lady Embereve

Penelope Locke

Lady Anastasia

Elizabeth Schmeidler

Lady Rosalina

Elizabeth Stine

Lady Cassandra

Lilette Teclaw

Lady Crystalina

Annika Weekes

Villagers

**Tatiana Castañeda, Mary Kelly
Maypril Krukowski, Michael Allen Rose**

Scene 1: At the Palace

Overture and Intro

Music: March and Divertimento No. 17 in D Menuetto (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)

The Empress, Prime Minister, Members of the Court

Mirror Holders

Choreography: **Connor Cornelius**

Music: March and Divertimento No. 17 in D Menuetto (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)

**Monica Goldstein, Ari Ortega, Sadie Shakeshaft,
Morrigan Simons, Caroline Slade, Isabella Velasco**

Members of the Court

Choreography: **Mei-Kuang Chen**

Music: Ballet from Idomeneo, K. 367 Chaconne: Allegro (Mozart)

**Megan Chrisman, Atessa Ferrigno,
Penelope Locke, Elizabeth Schmeideler,
Elizabeth Stine, Lilette Teclaw, Annika Weekes**

Dress Makers

Choreography: **Gina Sigismondi**

Music: Ballet Intermezzo K.299c II: Contradance (Mozart)

**Fiona Amey, Lyla Czerniawski, Amanda Miller,
Evelyn Nagis, Charlotte Schulman,
Maya Scott, Veronica Sowers**

Milliners

Choreography: **Gina Sigismondi**

Music: Symphony No. 97 in C: II: Adagio ma non troppo (Franz Joseph Haydn)

**O'Connor Amey, Maeve Biggins, Sophia Brody,
Linden Hanson-Taruc, Brigid McDonnell,
Olive Morton, Aria Ricchetti**

Scene 2: In the Village

A Day in the Village

Staging: **Sarah Najera**

Music: Symphony No. 51 in B-flat Major, IV: Finale Allegro (Haydn)

**Tatiana Castañeda, Mary Kelly, Maypril Krukowski,
Michael Allen Rose with Village Children**

Village Children - First Dance

Choreography: **Tatiana Castañeda**

Music: Symphony No. 51 in B-flat Major, IV: Finale Allegro (Haydn)

**Morgan Abinoja, Virginia Amey, Bryony Hanson-Taruc,
Omar Palacios, Lily Polk, Cora Ricchetti, Margot Sardenberg**

Village Children - Second Dance

Choreography: **Tatiana Castañeda**

Music: Les Petits Riens, K.10 VII: Pantomime (Mozart)

**Finley Ann Biggins, Fiona Canniff,
Maya Pesanti, Riley Roberts, Amelia Schulman
Camille Sowers, Jane Whiting**

Entrance of The Empress

Staging: **Sarah Najera**

Choreography: **Mei-Kuang Chen**

Music: March in C, K.214 / Music for a Pantomime: K. 446 III: Poco adagio (Mozart)

**Villagers, Village Children,
Prime Minister, The Empress, Members of the Court**

← *Intermission* →

Scene 3: A Royal Ball at the Palace

Tailors at Court

Staging: **Sarah Najera**

Music: Ballet Intermezzo K. 299c III: Le Forgeron Travaille Moderato

The Empress, Prime Minister, Tailors

Preparations for the Royal Ball

Choreography: **Mei-Kuang Chen**

Music: Symphony No. 44 in E Minor, 4: Finale Presto (Haydn)

Members of the Court, Mirror Holders, Dress Makers, Milliners

The Royal Ball

Choreography: **Gina Sigismondi**

Music: Symphony No. 94 in G, III: Menuetto Allegro motto (Haydn)

**Members of the Court
Mirror Holders, Dress Makers, Milliners
Villagers, Village Children
The Empress, Prime Minister, Tailors**

The Empress and Her New Clothes

Staging: **Sarah Najera**

Choreography: **Gina Sigismondi**

Music: Symphony No. 19 in E-Flat, K. 132: 4. Allegro (Mozart)

**Finley Ann Biggins, Fiona Canniff,
Maya Pesanti, Riley Roberts, Amelia Schulman,
Camille Sowers, Jane Whiting
with The Empress**

Finale

Choreography: **Gina Sigismondi**

Music: Symphony No. 94 in G, III: Menuetto Allegro motto (Haydn)

Ensemble

Additional Credits

Artistic & Executive Director of MOMENTA
Sarah Najera

Assistant Director & Administrative Support
Teresa Deziel

Technical Director
Diane Fairchild

Crew
Sofie Besser

Graphic Design by
Teresa Deziel

Photography by
Marcela Rafea

Videography by
Paul Park Productions

Additional Costume assistance by
Lisa Abinoja, Pamela Jones, Paloma Najera, Jenna Ricks, Toshi Uchida

Greeter
Joshua Ballenger

A big thank you to all of our amazing parent volunteers!

*We wish to thank you for your attendance and remind you
that our theater is located in a residential area.*

*We take pride in our effort to be good neighbors and ask
that you assist by departing in a quiet, caring and efficient manner.*

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This program is supported in part by grants from the Walder Foundation, Manaaki Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Oak Park- River Forest Community Foundation, The Oak Park Area Arts Council and made possible by ARPA funding from the US Treasury and the Village of Oak Park, the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.