

Ballet: The Little Mermaid

Choreography: John Neumeier

## The Story

This ballet is based on Hans Christian Anderson's "The Little Mermaid". It is a classic fairy tale about a young mermaid who makes the ultimate sacrifice in order to pursue her dreams of becoming human. The story follows the little mermaid as she falls in love with a human prince and yearns to become part of his world; however, she learns that the only way for this to become possible is if she agrees to make a deal with an evil sea witch. This deal will give her legs in exchange for her voice, and if she can win the prince's love before sunrise on the last day of their betrothal, then she will turn into a human permanently - but if not, she will turn into sea foam and die.

Despite being warned by her grandmother to avoid humans at all costs, the brave mermaid persists and embarks on a journey filled with trials and tribulations in order to find true love with the prince. Along the way, she overcomes many obstacles such as giant whirlpools, sea monsters, and fierce storms - all while navigating through unfamiliar waters. In spite of these challenges, she never gives up hope or wavers from her goal. Ultimately, her courage pays off when she finds true love with the prince - although it comes at a great cost as she must give up her beloved voice in exchange for legs so that they may be together forever.

The magical tale of "The Little Mermaid" is one that celebrates bravery, hope, and perseverance - reminding us all that sometimes you have to take risks in order to reach our goals and dreams!

## The History

Hans Christian Anderson is the author of the beloved fairy tale "The Little Mermaid", which was first published in 1837. Anderson wrote this magical story while living in Copenhagen, Denmark and drew inspiration from both ancient folklore and his own life experiences. The story was borne when he spotted a bronze statue of a mermaid at the harbor during one of his walks along the beach.

The beautiful tale follows a young mermaid who dreams of being part of the human world, and takes her on a journey filled with adventures and obstacles - all while navigating through unknown waters. Along the way she meets various characters and learns valuable lessons about bravery, courage and how to never give up on your dreams.

At its core, the story of "The Little Mermaid" is one that children can relate to - teaching them to stay strong even when faced with difficult situations and people who don't see eye-to-eye with them. This timeless classic has been adapted into countless films, television shows, musicals, plays and more over the years - captivating new hearts with each generation!

## The Little Mermaid

Once Upon a Ballet™

In 2005, John Neumeier choreographed “The Little Mermaid” on The Royal Danish Ballet. He adapted Hans Christian Anderson’s timeless tale of love, loss, and adventure. In 2011, his version of the ballet had its American premiere by the San Francisco Ballet. Yuan Yuan Tan danced as The Little Mermaid in its American premiere.