

## Ballet Class Activities

### Ballet 1A, 1B, 2, and 3

Video Playlist: [Le Corsaire](#)

Ballet Class Music: [Le Corsaire Piano Music for Classical Ballet Class](#) by Nina Miller

Orchestral Music: [Adam: Le Corsaire](#)

#### **Medora**

The ballet opens as a bazaar is selling slave girls. Medora is the most beautiful of all the slave girls. During port de bras exercises and balancé/waltz/mazurka exercises, have students imagine they are Medora in a group of slave girls. They are the most beautiful and lovely of all and they should show that in their dancing!

#### **Stealing Slaves**

Conrad, a pirate, instantly falls in love with Medora. Unfortunately for him, a rich pasha buys her. Conrad decides to have his own slave steal Medora for him.

Divide students into small groups and have them decide who will be Conrad (the pirate), Medora (the slave girl), the pasha (a rich man), and the slave (Conrad's slave). Play music students will improvise to. Then give students about 5 minutes to come up with a short, improvised scene to reenact the scenario. Play music and have each group improvise their scene.

After each group has gone, ask your students who were each part why they acted and danced the way they did. What did the dancers playing Conrad envision that character as? What about the Medora dancers, the pasha dancers, and the slave dancers.

In a subsequent week, do the activity again, allowing dancers to change roles if they wish.

#### **The Pasha's Dream**

To make a long story short, Medora is stolen from Conrad and taken back to the pasha. The pasha is so happy and announces Medora will be his number one wife. (The pasha had multiple wives.) The pasha falls asleep and dreams of his beautiful wives dancing.

During your students' spotting, pirouette, preparation for soutenu turns, and/or traveling turns exercises, have them imagine they are in the pasha's dream. They are in a beautiful garden of flowers, dancing together. You can optionally give each student a flower prop to dance with. If you have a particularly creative group who loves improvising, play music and allow them to improvise (with ballet steps) with their flower props, imagining they are in the garden in the dream.

#### **The Escape**

In the end, Conrad and his slave rescue Medora and Gulnare (one of the pasha's other wives) escape from the pasha. They flee to a pirate ship.

During grand allegro, have your students imagine they are fleeing from the pasha's home to a pirate ship!