Robin Hood rendition opens 41st season of Festival Ballet this weekend

The Festival Ballet of Providence will be putting on a performance of Robin Hood, which will run from Oct. 13 to Oct. 21 at their Black Box Theatre at 825 Hope St. The show is being choreographed by Mary Ellen Beaudreau, who grew up in Rhode Island and now works as a producer in New York City.

Beaudreau said that she thought this was the 2nd time any ballet company has ever put on a production of Robin Hood in the United States, and added that it’s going to be family-friendly.

She also said she wanted to get involved with it – this is her third time choreographing a show for the Festival Ballet – because of the current political climate, stating that the story’s theme of “sharing is caring” is an important one.

She said that doing the choreography for this show has been “intense and fun.”

“We’re using a lot of different kinds of movements,” she said. “Ballet, fight choreography, we’re using influences from modern and classical and contemporary forms. You’ll see bows and arrows, but a safe version of them.”
Beaudreau also talked about creating a career in the arts, which she said is challenging no matter where you go. She said that Rhode Island "has a lot to offer," and the Festival Ballet is "a gem."

She said that she got her start as a performer for the Festival Ballet when she was 16 years old and it helped her because it was "the highest training ground" she could have received without having to go to Boston, which helped kick-start her career in the performance arts. She now works as a full-time producer for the Theater at Gibney in New York. She said she's been focusing on choreography for seven years now and has done it all over the world.

The Robin Hood production put on by the Festival Ballet is being artistically directed by Mihailo Djuric, who said that the story of Robin Hood is "a timely story that demonstrates the importance of helping those in need."

Beaudreau said that going to the show will only take about 40 minutes of your time and is an inexpensive way to have "a lot of fun."

There are six showings – Saturday, Oct. 13 at 4:00 p.m., Sunday Oct. 14 at 1:00 p.m., Sunday Oct. 14 at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20 at 4:00 p.m., Sunday Oct. 21 at 1:00 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 21 at 4:00 p.m.

For tickets call 353-1129 or go to festivalballetprovience.org/2018-2019-season/robin-hood.
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