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ITHACA PREMIERE OF SWAN LAKE

ITHACA – For the third time in the last four years, the Ithaca Ballet is bringing a new full-length production to the State Theatre. This year, the ballet premieres *Swan Lake*. This ballet is considered the most popular and technically demanding of the classical ballets. Unfolding over four acts, *Swan Lake* is set to the music of Tchaikovsky and covers the full range of human emotions.

Swan Lake represents several firsts for the Ithaca Ballet. While the ballet has performed scenes from *Swan Lake* as a part of its repertoire for many years, this is the first time the Ithaca Ballet has presented the entire ballet originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The ballet is staged by Cindy Reid, the artistic director of the Ithaca Ballet. Reid also provided additional choreography for the piece. In addition, *Swan Lake* has twenty dancers in the corps de ballet in Act IV. This is the largest corps in the history of the Ithaca Ballet. Finally, *Swan Lake* will feature the Ithaca debut of Guest Artist Enton Hoxha, who will dance the lead male role of Siegfried. Albanian-born and Russian-trained, Enton currently dances with the State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara.

Hoxha will partner Principal Dancer Nadia Drake, who will dance the challenging roles of the white and black swan. They will be accompanied by 25 dancers from the Ithaca Ballet company, six guest children from the Ballet Center of Ithaca school, and, of course the Ballet's Resident Guest Artist, Johann Studier.

Audiences can enjoy *Swan Lake* at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, or 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. Both performances are at The State Theatre in Ithaca. Ticket prices range from \$6 to \$18 and are available at the State Theatre box office, online at www.stateofithaca.com, or by calling 1-800-919-6272. Discounts for groups of 10 or more, seniors, and students, are available for both shows. More information about the Ithaca Ballet can be found at www.ithacaballet.org. The 2007-2008 Ithaca Ballet season is supported by Spider ITX. Additional grant support for *Swan Lake* is provided by the Community Arts Partnership.

Founded in 1961, The Ithaca Ballet, housed at the Ballet Center of Ithaca, is Upstate New York's only repertory company. The ballet is a professional ensemble corps, having a varied repertoire of classical and contemporary works. Nationally known, the company tours the Finger Lakes Region.

www.ithacaballet.org