

Created by: Debra C. Argen

American Ballet Theatre - Swan Lake

There is always something special about the beloved ballet, Swan Lake, and when the [American Ballet Theatre](#) performed the ballet, it was spectacular.

The American Ballet Theatre in New York gave 8 performances of Swan Lake from June 26 - July 1, 2006, and on July 1, 2006, they dedicated their last performance in memory of the world-renowned Miami-born Cuban-American former American Ballet Theatre dancer Fernando Bujones who died in 2005 at the age of 50 of malignant melanoma.

Swan Lake with choreography by Kevin McKenzie after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky, Sets and Costumes by Zack Brown, Lighting by Duane Shuler, and Conducted by Charles Barker, is one of the most famous ballets and is a romantic story about a prince who comes of age and falls in love with a princess who has been transformed into a swan by a curse of the evil sorcerer von Rothbart. It is a story where promises are broken but love ultimately triumphs in the end. It is a story that reaches out and touches your heart.

I attended the ballet on July 1, 2006, and performed by the gifted American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancers Paloma Herrera in the lead roles of Odette and Odile, and Angel Corella in the role of Prince Siegfried, the ballet took on epic proportions as they flawlessly performed this endearing ballet. Combined with talented performances by Corps de Ballet dancer Ilona McHugh as The Queen Mother, Kirk Peterson as Wolfgang, tutor to the prince, Soloist dancer Sascha Radetsky as Benno, the prince's friend, Corps de Ballet dancer Jared Matthews and Soloist dancer Jesus Pastor as von Rothbart the evil sorcerer, and the Corps de Ballet dancers, the evening was genuinely magical.



The magnificent Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center provided the perfect ambience for the ballet with its extravagant stage settings, the music was superb, Mr. Brown's exquisitely colorful costumes were sumptuously opulent, and the stunning Ms. Herrera, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the handsome Mr. Corella, from Madrid, Spain, created a striking couple as they masterfully performed their roles.

Never have I attended a ballet anywhere where the audience was as excited as this one, as they continually demonstrated their appreciation throughout the ballet by applauding and loudly calling out 'Bravo' and 'Brava,' as the American Ballet Theatre dancers executed exceptional leaps, pirouettes, and lifts throughout the performance. At the conclusion of the ballet, the American Ballet Theatre dancers received a standing ovation and after multiple curtain calls, Ms. Herrera and Mr. Corella came back on stage where the appreciative audience presented them with an endless stream of bouquets and showered

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them with individual flowers. It was a sensational evening and a wonderful tribute dedicated to the memory of Fernando Bujones, a master dancer who truly inspired many Latino dancers during his career of over three decades.

For information on the **American Ballet Theatre** please visit their website at www.abt.org or telephone them at +1 212 362 6000.

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