



New York City Ballet - The Sleeping Beauty – Trip Notes
Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:00am Depart home
 8:45am Bus

Title: New York City Ballet: **The Sleeping Beauty**, Meet the Dancer; Brunch at Marseille

10:00am Brunch at Marseille is always a treat. A day to awaken a childlike delight in us all!

Big coincidence: At the restaurant we joined a table of 6 and one of them was on my same cruise last week! Cynthia and Marilyn live in Tinton Falls, travel together sometimes, and Cynthia and husband were on my same Viking ship last week.

Per Kathy, another at the same table: Another coincidence from our brunch table friends, is that Mary (gal that sat next to me) uses the same cleaning person (Nancy). Small world indeed!

12:00noon Transport to Lincoln Center – Koch Theatre - Be mesmerized by this magical ballet, recounting one of the most beloved fairy-tales, the story of Princess Aurora, otherwise known as The Sleeping Beauty. The first ballet scored by Tchaikovsky, New York City ballet's grand production is a joyous celebration of romance and fantasy.



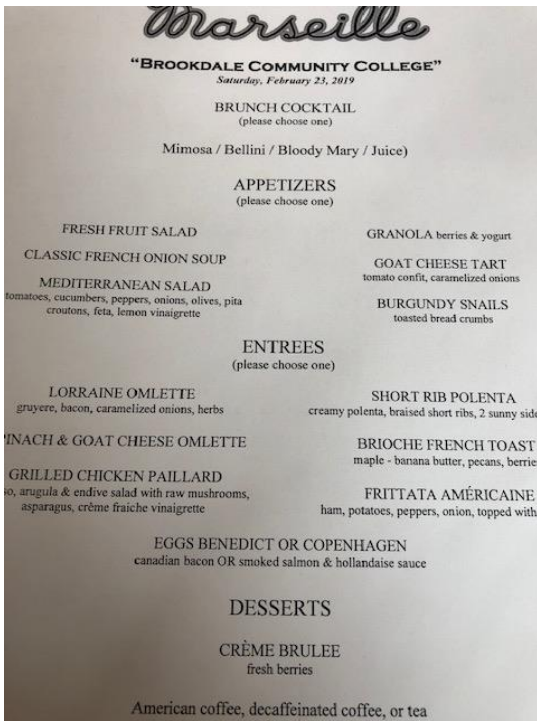
12:30pm Prior to the ballet, be immersed in the life of a NYCB dancer during a 45-minute discussion and backstage tour. A company member will share insights into the life of a dancer, interesting moments from the history of NYCB, and provide background for the performance. Experience a breathtaking view of the auditorium from onstage.

Sleeping Beauty: <https://www.nycballet.com/Ballets/S/The-Sleeping-Beauty.aspx>

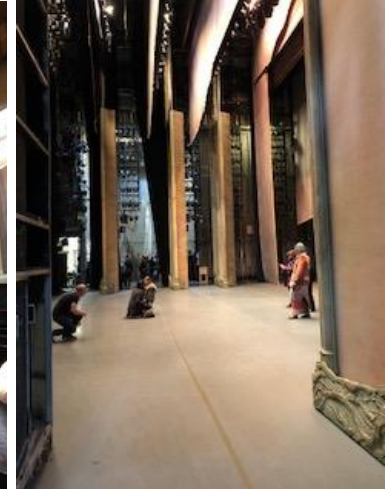
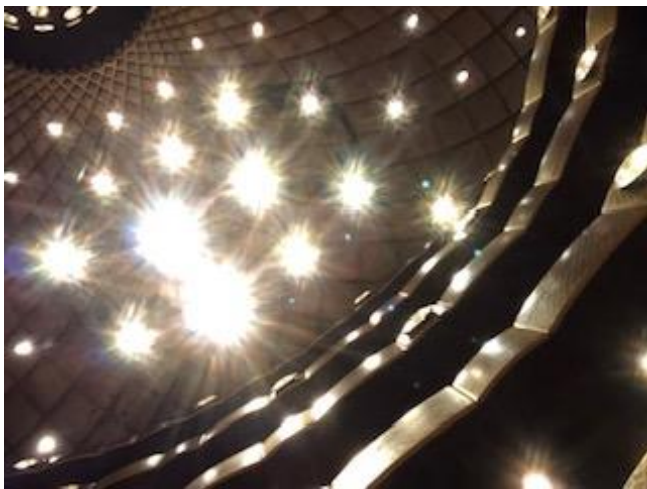
The story of sleeping beauty: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleeping_Beauty

Gossip: Peter Martins Left City Ballet a Year Ago. But He's Not Entirely Gone.- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/22/arts/dance/peter-martins-city-ballet.html>

6:30pm Arrive back at Brookdale



The Marseille has been a favorite restaurant for some years. It's located around 9th and 42nd in Hells Kitchen. The main company owns about five different French style restaurants and the Nice Matin on Amsterdam and around 83rd would be my favorite if it were closer to the main sights.



The main opera house at Lincoln Center is really the best, but this facility is pretty nice too. It was purpose built for ballet, one of the few in the world. Our back stage guide was the star Tyler Angle, whose brother Jared Angle also plays. They trade off. Very nice eye candy and he was entertaining and smart too. Ballet is grueling work and he talked about rehearsals all day for the next production, then performing in the current production that evening. It's exciting to be backstage, something we've managed to do in many opera houses around the world. I just signed up for a back stage tour of the Dresden Germany opera house in March.

Our family history: Alayna took ballet and tap lessons from age 3. She was so tiny in addition to being so young. She may have been good but she lucked out and as a teen grew some curves that don't exactly work for ballet. (It's a hard career and she was better off without it.) In between she had lots of lessons and even studied with a Bejart School Teacher while in Belgium. (Back stage momma also tried. Ha ha.) After returning to the U.S. she had as many as 7 classes and private lessons per week in various dance modes, including going to NYC to study with some famous persons. I think she quit after doing 2 or 3 solos in a performance center nearby. Smart move.

While living in Europe we managed to see ballet productions in Brussels and Paris, in opera houses like the Palais Garnier. When we moved back to the US of course NYC called and for years we saw quite a few good productions.



Our guide Tyler said one of the cutest words said from a high schooler taking a back stage tour was “wow, a disco ball!”



Upstairs from our orchestra seats and having a glass of wine. The facility is so large that there was no feel of crowding which is unique. There's Kathy with her wine. The two sculpture have a story from long ago history. Donators were stunned at the nudity and wanted them removed, so the architect/builder quickly built the wall so removal was impossible. The last picture is an aerial view taken from the web. We were in the orchestra seats which I generally don't choose but had enough elevation to be fine and were straight sight onto the stage.

Next up? Going to see a production of “Guys and Dolls” at the Montclair Theatre on Sunday March 3. Then to an Andy Warhol special at the Whitney Museum in NYC on March 11. Both have noted restaurant visits included. Tom and I then depart March 13 to Prague for 5 days on our own before joining Viking River Cruises Elbe River to Berlin, followed by a few days on our own in Berlin. Home March 30.