



## Curriculum Guide

Arkansas Festival Ballet's *The Princess and the Frog* is a storybook ballet based on the folktale, The Frog Prince and the novel, The Frog Princess written by E.D. Baker. The show is 45-minutes long and includes some audience participation. Following the show, there will be a short Q&A.

The story is set in the city of New Orleans, a waitress is working hard and pursuing a dream of opening her own restaurant. This plan takes a detour when Tiana reluctantly kisses a frog and becomes a frog herself. She must find a way to reverse the spell cast by a sinister witch doctor. Through a hilarious parade of events evil plans are foiled, friendships are forged, and true love is found.

This original ballet celebrates diversity, inclusion, and artistry of all talents. The audience can expect to see bold personalities to reflect the characters in the story and continuous energy from the corps de ballet. This storybook ballet interpretation features a colorful staging of choreography that is snappy + sensational.

Music is by Florence Price, William Grant Still

[Florence Beatrice Price](#) (April 9, 1887 – June 3, 1953) was an African-American classical composer. She was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a [symphonic](#) composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

[William Grant Still](#) (1895–1978) was an American composer of nearly two hundred works, including five symphonies, four ballets, nine operas, over thirty choral works, art songs, chamber music, and solo works.

## Synopsis of the Ballet

*The Princess and the Frog*

Scene 1-2 This story is set in the city of New Orleans during the 1920s. Two young girls who are the best of friends have big dreams; Charlotte La Bouff wishes to marry a prince and Tiana hopes to one day open her own restaurant.

Scene 3 As a waitress, Tiana is hard working while her dearest friend Charlotte is a bold flirt living the life of leisure. With her thoughts on the pending arrival of a handsome young prince, Charlotte decides her father, Big Daddy should throw a masquerade ball to celebrate. He pays Tiana generously to make her famous beignets for the ball. Tiana is more than willing as she has now earned enough for the down payment on her dream restaurant.

Scene 4 Meanwhile, a spoiled Prince Naveen, recently cut off from his family's riches, arrives to the city with his valet, Lawrence. Naveen is in pursuit of finding a wealthy southern belle to marry when he encounters Shadow Man, a voodoo witch doctor, who tricks them into a fortune reading. Using voodoo talisman, he turns Naveen into a frog and Lawrence into Naveen; with the intent to see the disguised Lawrence marry Charlotte, so he himself can gain the La Bouff fortune.

Scene 5-6 Tiana shares memories of her late father with her mother Eudora and they imagine all the possibilities of what Tiana's restaurant will be like.

Scene 7-8 At the ball, Charlotte boldly pursues Naveen (Lawrence) while Tiana wishes on the evening star for her dream to come true as she has become doubtful about the security of her restaurant investment. Tiana then meets Naveen in frog form, who thinks she is a princess and asks for a kiss to break the Shadow Man's spell. In

return for a kiss Naveen promises to fund her restaurant. She reluctantly kisses the frog, however, because she is not actually a princess, Tiana turns into a frog.

Scene 9-10 Naveen and Tiana, now both frogs head to Bayou Lafourche where they meet a firefly named Ray and Louis a trumpet playing alligator. Louis dreams of playing jazz music and Ray is enamored by the evening star (Evangeline).

Scene 11-12 Ray and Louis learn that Naveen and Tiana are humans under a voodoo spell and take them to Mama Odie. She reminds them a princess's kiss will break the spell and turn them back into humans.

Scene 13 Knowing that Big Daddy is the Mardi Gras King and Charlotte a princess until midnight; Naveen and Tiana travel back to New Orleans to find Charlotte. However, Charlotte's kiss doesn't break the spell.

Scene 14

Man tries to convince Tiana to exchange the talisman for making her dreams come true. Tiana destroys it and the voodoo trois drag him into their world. Now in love, Tiana and Naveen accept that they will be frogs forever.

Ray steals the talisman and gives it to Tiana, and Shadow

Scene 15-16

Bayou Lafourche, all company stirs, and everyone comes together to celebrate friendships and true love. Because you see, Tiana becomes a princess when she marries Prince Naveen, and their kiss restores them to human form.

## **Performance Venue**

Arkansas Festival Ballet Main Street Theatre  
Located @ 518 Main Street, Downtown Little Rock

## **Arrival & Departure**

Arrive 30 minutes before show time, we will be ready to greet you. There is a drop off point located on Main Street in front of the venue, where students can safely exit buses or vehicles without crossing any streets.

## **Ticket Reservations**

Use the reservation form to reserve your tickets.

## **Payment**

Once your reservation is confirmed, you will receive an invoice. Payments can be made via paypal link [paypal.me/AFBaudition](https://www.paypal.me/AFBaudition) or check. Please make check payable to Arkansas Festival Ballet inc.

Have Questions or need help reserving tickets?

Contact, Rebecca Miller Stalcup, Director

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# ARKANSAS FESTIVAL BALLET

## Performing Company

Arkansas Festival Ballet, under the direction of Artistic Director Rebecca Miller Stalcup, and Outreach Director Meredith Zachritz, contributes to the cultural community in central Arkansas through quality performances featuring local and guest artists. Through a partnership with Arkansas Academy of Dance, Arkansas Festival Ballet encourages formal classical ballet training to prepare talents for extensive training programs at major companies and schools.

Arkansas Festival Ballet's Performance Season includes a full-length storybook ballet production, *The Nutcracker*, a mixed bill performance, and collaborative projects with local arts organizations.

Arkansas Festival Ballet has performed the classic ballets, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella* and *Coppelia* in addition to storybook ballets *The Princess and the Frog*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Aladdin*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Snow White* and *Hansel & Gretel*. Additional works include grand scaled productions of *Carmina Burana*, *Peter Grimes*, *The Magic Flute*, *Dido & Aeneas*, *Dracula Unearthed* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

Arkansas Festival Ballet strives to strengthen arts education in the community through its collaborative partnerships with organizations in Central Arkansas. As featured guest artist, Arkansas Festival Ballet has appeared with the Conway Symphony Orchestra, South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra, University of Arkansas Music Department & Concert Choir, Wildwood Park for the Arts, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Opera in the Rocks, Argenta Community Theatre, Arkansas Arts Center, Praeclara Arts, and The Clinton Foundation. AFB is funded in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, private grants, Patrons & Friends of the Ballet.

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*Arkansas Festival Ballet promotes, presents, and enhances the art of Classical Ballet through quality performances and dance education.*