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Fashioning a Fairy Tale

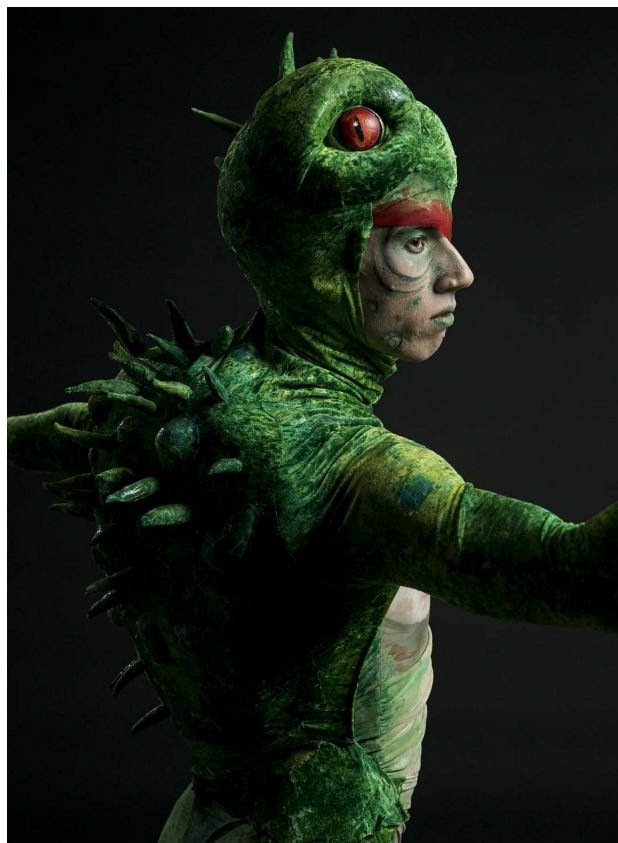
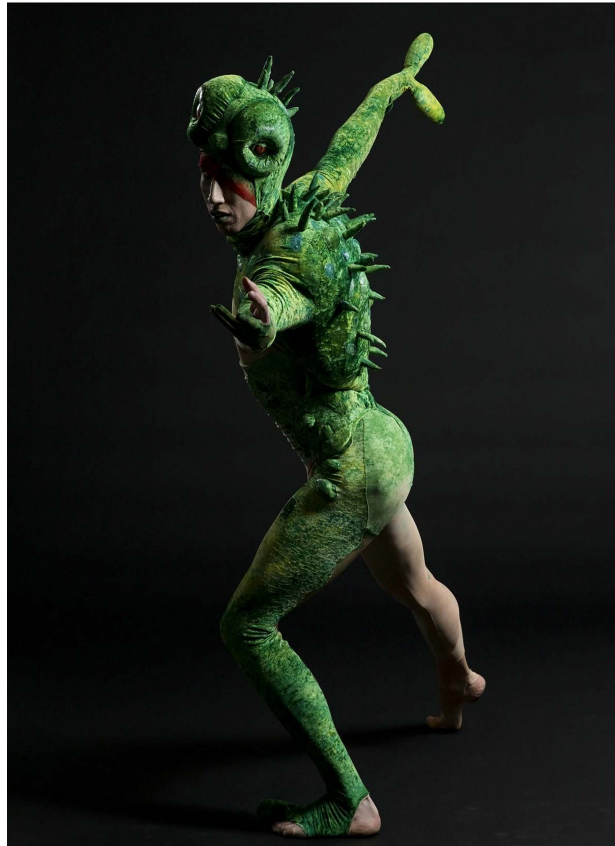
'Grimm Tales,' a new production at Ballet Austin in Texas, sees three stories from the Brothers Grimm through the perspective of artist Natalie Frank. Ms. Frank worked with costume designer Constance Hoffman on the look of the three tales in the ballet: 'The Frog King,' 'Snow White' and 'The Juniper Tree.' Scroll through for more images of how they brought the characters to life.

Photographs by Alex Scott for The Wall Street Journal Text by Kelly Crow



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In 'The Frog King,' a tale about a feisty princess who bargains with a frog, Ballet Austin costume designer Constance Hoffman transformed the frog-turned-prince into an amphibian by layering bulbous eyes onto his head and a green, webbed costume that was built by Colin Davis Jones Studios. When the frog turns back into a man, his warty attire gets partly peeled away—but not entirely because, as artist Natalie Frank said, 'There's always a little frog left in every prince'





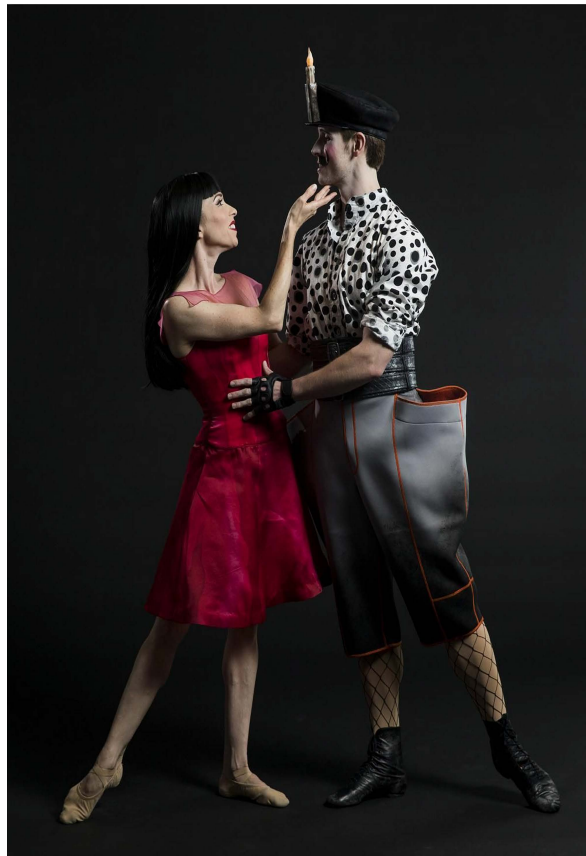
The princess's look was designed to be cartoonish, her hair indicating her fiery temperament. The roles of the frog prince and the princess are portrayed by Oliver Greene-Cramer and Jaime Lynn Witts.







Under Ms. Hoffman's direction, Eric Wintering and Jeff Fender helped build and paint the costumes for the 'Snow White' segment using red as a bloody theme—including the title character's dress.





Instead of harmless gnomes, the dwarves in this ballet are also sexualized here as strapping men sporting leathery, bondage attire, a sign that Snow White might not even want a prince to save her. The role of Snow White is played here by Ashley Lynn Sherman, and one of several dwarves in the ballet are played by Morgan Stillman.





'Grimm Tales' concludes with 'The Juniper Tree.' Mio Guberini, who has designed headdresses for Broadway shows like 'Frozen,' was an easy pick to help create headpieces and masks for this part of the ballet. In the tale, a murdered boy is resurrected as a golden bird—covered in all-seeing eyes. Dancer Ian J. Bethany plays the role of the boy-turned-bird in the new ballet.