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**photo credit Ark Sokol**

### THE THREE FACES OF ALABAMA BALLET'S *SWAN LAKE*

Birmingham, AL – Called “the most challenging female role in classical ballet” by Alabama Ballet Associate Artistic Director Roger Van Fleteren, the part of Odette/Odile requires a dancer’s movement style to be the best of both worlds: soft, loving and timid, as well as forceful, seductive and duplicitous. A dancer is naturally inclined to one style or the other, and mastering what is opposite of your nature is challenging.

Alabama Ballet dancers are up to the challenge. Jennifer Ferrigno, Chinatsu Owada and Samantha Galler will make their debut in the dual role of Odette/Odile in The Alabama Ballet’s production of *Swan Lake* from February 24-26 at the Wright Center, Samford University. These three ballerinas represent the next chapter of talent in The Alabama Ballet’s 30 year history as Alabama’s premier professional ballet company.

Audiences will recognize Ferrigno from George Balanchine’s™ *The Nutcracker* where she danced the roles of Arabian Coffee and The Sugarplum Fairy. Chinatsu Owada, a company member since 2002, earned a five-star review as the title role in last season’s acclaimed production of *Giselle*. Samantha Galler, who has only been a company member for two years, has already made a name for herself with lead roles in *Paquita*, and *Don Quixote*.

How do these ballerinas prepare for the role of a lifetime? Besides daily class and rehearsal, Jennifer Ferrigno says, “Each night I am on YouTube watching famous dancers and their interpretation of the role. As rehearsals continue and the sequences of steps are in my body, I will begin videotaping my rehearsals and taking notes on the footage. Technically, this role is demanding on a level I haven’t experienced thus far in my career.”

Galler says, “I have wanted to learn and perform this role since I was little because my goal is to prove to myself that I can attack the steps as a creature, like the swan would and turn myself from delicate to dark.”

“*Swan Lake* is always my favorite ballet to watch but I never imagined I would dance Odette/Odile” says Owada. “My dream roles were Juliet from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle*, and Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*. But now, having this great opportunity to perform Odette/Odile, I am very honored and very excited to dance in my favorite ballet!”

To purchase tickets, call the Alabama Ballet’s box office agent at 205-975-2787, or visit us online at [www.alabamaballet.org](http://www.alabamaballet.org). *Swan Lake* is sponsored by Betty Brice and Protective Life Insurance Company.

#### Performance Dates and Times

Wright Center, Samford University  
Friday, February 24 – 7:30  
Saturday, February 25 – 2:30 & 7:30  
Sunday, February 26 – 2:30

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