



Coppelia

A film by
**Jeff Tudor,
Steven De Beul,
Ben Tisseur**

Based on tales by
E.T.A. Hoffmann

International Sales Agent:
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Technical info
Live Action & Animation
Netherlands, Germany, Belgium
2021 ♦ 82 min ♦ No dialogue
Color ♦ Image 1.85:1 ♦ Sound 5.1 Surround





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Logline

When everyone in town falls under the spell of charismatic cosmetic surgeon Doctor Coppelius, feisty Swan must act to save her sweetheart Franz before his heart is used to spark life into Coppelius' creation – the 'perfect' robot-woman the Doctor has created. A modern tale for young and old, told through a unique combination of 2D and 3D animation and live action dance.

Synopsis

Innovative family feature Coppelia combines enchanting animation and live action dance in a modern retelling of the love story between Swan and Franz, jeopardised by Dr. Coppelius and his uncannily beautiful protégée Coppelius. With a diverse and world-class cast including Michaela DePrince, Daniel Camargo, Vito Mazzeo and Dame Darcey Bussell, DBE, the unconventional adaptation sees Dr. Coppelius (Mazzeo) as a cosmetic surgeon, whose lure of superficial beauty poisons the town. Swan (DePrince) must uncover the truth about the popular newcomer who puts her community and the life of her beloved Franz (Daniel Camargo) in danger. Modern and fast paced, the dialogue-free film features a blend of musical influences from classical to electronic, bringing the story to life like never before. As the townspeople come to learn, in the age of social media and an increasingly image conscious culture – it's never been more important to be yourself.





Interview with Michaela DePrince



Swan

Swan is a confident, independent young woman. She lives with her mother in a small, friendly town. Swan runs her own juice bar, has a great group of friends and - although she won't admit it to herself, or to anyone else, just yet - she is falling for Franz.

What do you hope audiences will get from Coppelia?

I hope audiences of all ages will be inspired. We all struggle to find ways to fit the norm, or what people say the norm is, when being different and unique is much more special than trying to be what others want you to be.

How is this production of Coppelia subverting some of the stereotypes about ballet and making it more accessible for modern audiences?

This version of Coppelia is very modern, which I hope audiences will find relatable.

What are some of the key themes of the story you're hoping to bring across?

Standing up for what you believe in. Protecting others from feeling that they aren't good enough, and of course love and acceptance.

What do you love most about dance as a medium for storytelling?

It is the best way for me to express myself. Especially with this production, you understand what the story is about by just one small look and I think that's beautiful.

How was it working with the production team to make this film?

It was a great experience. I was challenged in ways I've never been challenged before, but in a really positive way. I grew quite a lot in the process of making this film due to all the support I had from the production team.



Interview with Daniel Camargo



Franz

Franz is the popular guy who runs the bicycle repair shop in front of the juice bar. Although he is constantly surrounded by adoring girls, he secretly loves Swan but is too shy to admit it... His loving heart is why Doctor Coppelius decides to capture him in his clinic.

What do you hope audiences will get from Coppelia?

I hope they will have fun watching it! I think the great thing about Coppelia the movie, is that it's universal - there's no dialogue, and the story is easy to understand. So audiences of all ages, from all over the world, will be able to watch and enjoy the film.

How is this production of Coppelia subverting some of the stereotypes about ballet and making it more accessible for modern audiences?

It's a very updated and relevant version of Coppelia, so it will allow audiences to see and understand the story through a new lens.

What are the stereotypes about ballet? If you've never seen ballet before, I'm sure you'll enjoy this. It's great fun, and the dance is really used to drive the story along. It's just like a musical, but with dance instead of songs! It's a very easy style. You don't have to know anything about ballet to enjoy the film.

What are some of the key themes of the story you're hoping to bring across?

Anyone can enjoy and express themselves through dance, without any

restrictions, be it color, sexual orientation or background. That's not a part of the story, but this naturally comes across through the film! The key theme is 'Be yourself'. Be confident and happy being who you are, you don't have to change yourself to suit someone else's idea of what is beautiful. Oh, and it's also a nice love story! Which everyone enjoys.

Why do you think the story of Coppelia is still relevant today?

This telling of Coppelia brings a number of contemporary issues to the forefront. Young people today are facing a lot of pressure, especially on social media, to look a certain way. More and more young people want to have cosmetic surgery. It's important we remind young people, it's OK to be yourself, you shouldn't feel any pressure.





Interview with Vito Mazzeo

Coppelius

The charismatic cosmetic surgeon Doctor Coppelius comes to town to build his impressive clinic. He presents his gorgeous (animated) muse, Coppelia, as the perfect advert for his skills. Coppelius quickly seduces the townspeople to be “improved”. But they emerge from the clinic looking eerily blank and too vain to be kind to each other. While giving them their beauty treatments, the Doctor is simultaneously extracting the most special qualities from their personalities! His evil plan is to steal the energy from Franz’s beating heart and use it to bring his Coppelia creation to life.

What do you hope audiences will get from Coppelia?

My first hope is that the audience will understand that Ballet is an art form not just related to theatre. The magic of live performance is one of the things that made me decide to start this career, but Ballet in Cinema can work beautifully, as this movie will show.

What are some of the key themes of the story you’re hoping to bring across?

My character Doctor Coppelius is a cosmetic surgeon, and the film explores that “beauty” is not enough without depth. In Italy we say “not everything that sparkles is gold”, which I think is particularly relevant today. Everybody works very hard to cultivate the



best external image, but what’s inside should be fed in an equal way.

What do you love most about dance as a medium for storytelling?

Once a friend of mine took me to Palazzo Sacchetti in Rome where Francesco Salviati painted a fresco showing David dancing in front of Ark of the Covenant and he told me “you see David, when he has in front of him the presence of God, the first thing he does is to dance”. He made me recognise that I do one of the most wonderful jobs in the world, that has such a powerful potential for communication – and it’s a language that we make use of in this film.

How was it working with the production team to make this film?

When we started this film, I had just suffered the loss of my best friend. I started the first day crying and by the last I was smiling of joy. The care of the directors, producers and everyone involved was like fresh air to me. The experience of learning new things every day, feeling the love of every single person involved, working next to Darcey and Irek, doing research at night for the character, watching the work of Eduardo de Filippo and Alberto Sordi and the amazing times spent together like a family will stay with me forever.



Coppelia

Coppelia is Doctor Coppelius’ mysterious and fascinating muse. She manages to make Franz follow her into the clinic, which convinces Swan to break in to rescue him and discover the sinister truth: Coppelia is just a sophisticated robot!



The producers

Submarine

The Amsterdam based production house Submarine was founded in 2000 by Bruno Felix & Femke Wolting. Over the years Submarine has established itself as an innovative company that produces feature films, animation, documentaries, and transmedia, all with an international focus. As the premier animation studio in NL, Submarine creates compelling and visually-stunning stories for both the big and small screen. Submarine was awarded Producer of the Year during Cartoon Movie 2019 in Bordeaux. Recent titles include the feature films *Where is Anne Frank* directed by Ari Folman, *Best Birthday Ever*, *Apollo 10 ½: A Space Age Adventure* from director Richard Linklater for Netflix and the series *Fox & Hare* and *Undone* season 1 and 2 for Amazon Prime.

Lunanime

Lunanime is a production company based in Ghent (Belgium) which focuses on fiction and animation projects, shorts, series as well as features films, a.o. *Bloomstreet 11*, *Mosaic*, *Coppelia*, *The Siren*, *Funan*, *A cat in Paris*, *Ollie...* The company was founded in 2008 as part of the Lumière group. Animation projects are produced in-house in Lunanime's 2D animation studio - Studio Lumière - or for stopmotion at our partner company - Beast animation.

3 minutes West

3 minutes West is an award-winning independent production company founded by Director/Producer Jeff Tudor and Producer Adrienne Liron. The company is based in Amsterdam and Manchester.

Coppelia is 3 minutes West's first mixed-media feature. Until now, the company's focus has been producing arts programming for event cinema and TV. 3 minutes West has produced many feature-length, multi-camera recordings / adaptations of stage productions for the screen. Broadcast and distribution partners include the BBC, Pathé Live and Sky Arts. 3 minutes West's films have been screened at international arts film festivals and won awards including the Rose d'Or (*Betroffenheit* for the BBC). *Coppelia* marks the company's shift of focus to mixed media / cross-genre storytelling.

MotionWorks

MotionWorks was founded in 1998 by Tony Loeser and partners. In June 2019, Romy Roolf - executive producer at the company since the very beginning - and the experienced producer Grit Wißkirchen took over the management of the company.

The studio's portfolio includes international projects, which have been developed in-house, such as the original series *The Adventures of the Young Marco Polo* and *Mullewapp 1 and 2* based on the *3 friends* stories by Helme Heine. MotionWorks takes particular care to select great projects for international, cross-media exploitation. The resulting productions are artistically demanding and produced in a variety of technologies, with a special focus on a combination of live action and animation similar to *Coppelia*.



Production note

Director Jeff Tudor, who has brought many outstanding dance and theatre productions to the big screen, initiated the idea for *Coppelia* under his Dutch-British banner 3 minutes West. Their first stop was Dutch public broadcaster, AVROTROS, who immediately supported the ambitious project and proposed Submarine as a suitable lead producing partner with experience of directing mixed media features.

Bruno Felix, co-founding chief of Amsterdam-based multi-platform production house Submarine: "Jeff's idea to create a hybrid between dance and animation touched on our passion for hybrid productions. We loved to become partner for our animation knowledge – and our fearless approach to complex productions."

When our Belgian co-directors were added to the team, it seemed only logical to look for a Belgian coproducer, which we found in the person of Annemie Degryse, founder of Lunanime,

and known for her sharp eye for artistically interesting projects. Our other partner MotionWorks is one of the leading studios in Germany and has experience in both 2D and 3D animation and the combination of animation and live action. And since the origin of the story lies in Germany, this was a perfect match.





Cast & crew

Michaela DePrince (USA) Swan
Daniel Camargo (Brazil) Franz
Vito Mazzeo (Italy) Doctor Coppelius
Darcey Bussell (UK) Mayor
Irek Mukhamedov (Russia) Baker

Directors Jeff Tudor, Steven De Beul, Ben Tesseur

Script Jeff Tudor, Steven De Beul, Ben Tesseur

Producers Bruno Felix, Femke Wolting and Janneke van de Kerkhof
(Submarine), Adrienne Liron (3 minutes West)

Co-producers Annemie Degryse (Lunanime),
Romy Roolf (MotionWorks)

Choreographer Ted Brandsen

Composer Maurizio Malagnini

Director of Photography Tristan Oliver BSC





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