

# Ballerina: A Fashion Muse

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Typically in an artistic view, a Ballerina represents a swan due to the long neck and significance of being beautiful and elegant. The Ballerina skirt of a Ballerina dancer, aside from the shoes and other garments signifies beauty, feminine and elegance to the dancer. The presence of a Ballerina on stage is considered the most important part of the show, meaning all eyes are on that specific individual for the most part.

Even though the swiftness and choreography of a Ballerina looks somewhat easy, it takes much practice and high level of expertise to be able to perform in a Ballerina outfit. The leotard made of either Lycra or spandex under a ballerinas dress functions to be flexible as well as keeping the dancer cool while wearing a light tulle fabric Ballerina skirt. The shoes of a ballerina supports the strength of the dancers toes and ankles due to the fact they are on their toes most of the performance. It supports the body weight of the dancer as well as the arch of their foot (Ader-Cumpston, L. (2015, January 28).

Based off of the FIT's Ballerina: Fashion Modern Muse and inspired by Ukrainian émigré Barbara Karinska. Charles James "Swan" Evening dress consists of all black with pink tulle peeking under the ballerina skirt (Ballerina: Fashion's Modern Muse February 11 – April 18, 2020. (n.d.)). The significance of this the color black reveals power, mystery and strength along with the peeks of pink in the skirt signifying Femininity, loving and elegant. The colors and their meaning construct the look of a fierce swan and its elegance.

The Swan dress consists of bold lines at the corset of the dress appeared to be wrapping horizontally around resulting in separation of the colors black and silver. The rhythm of transition from the draping skirt to the tulle ballerina skirt seems to be smooth as if it was blanketed over as a layer. For the most part an unbalanced of the swan dress seems to be present from the lines of on the corset to the front and back of the ballerina skirt having the back out

weighing the front. The juxtaposition of the dress seems to be a contrast of black and silver on the top to the pink to the contrast of pink and black on the tulle ballerina skirt. Both justifications complement the dress giving it a daring and fierce look. A dominant element is the presence of black and pink tulle fabric consisting about 70 percent of the Swan dress and even though the tulle fabric takes up most of the dress the draped skirt blanketing over it seems to take up much of the weight of the dress.

The fierce and strong look of the Swan dress is different from the feel of the fabric the dress consists of. With elements such as silk chiffon and satin it gives a light and soft feel with a smooth finish. The form of dance is where different cultures and people can showcase the beauty of their beliefs and life within just a few movements. It helps individuals express emotions or a certain story when words become difficult to form. Based off of an article by Beyond the Barre “Without subtitles or narration, the audience relies on every aspect of the costume to understand critical aspects of the story. “With such details enmeshed into the tutu, the process of making one is just as sensational as the end product itself (Hernandez, D. (2018, July 30)).” The quote itself tells you how different types of ballerina skirts can be used to tell a different part of a story or express a certain emotion whether it be a ballerina skirt consisting of ten to twelve layers to a skirt consisting of six to eight layers, both can result in the imagination of being black swans or sleeping beauties.

## APA Citations

Ader-Cumpston, L. (2015, January 28). How do Ballerinas Dance on Their Toes? Retrieved October 29, 2020, from <https://school.ballet58.org/blog/2015/01/28/how-do-ballerinas-dance-on-their-toes>

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