

# CREATING A BALLET

This is a teacher-led activity.

Make sure you have reviewed "Dance Vocabulary" and "Who's Who in the Ballet" before beginning this activity.



Atlanta Ballet dancers in *Swan Lake*. Photo by Kim Kenney.

Select a story that the class has read or will read together and create a ballet from that story. Tell the story with movement/dance only – do not use words! Now that you have studied all the people involved in creating a ballet...

- **Assign each student or a group of students a role**
- **Select the characters**
- **Select what scenes will be danced by the corps de ballet and soloists and as pas de deux**
- **Select music for each scene (classical music is suggested)**
- **Put the ballet together**

This should take the class a few days to accomplish. Make sure you keep their choices (music, etc.) to a minimum or it will take them too long.

## **An alternate idea for older or more advanced students**

Let each group select their own story and complete the same tasks. When performing for each other, have them guess the story on which each ballet is based.

**Helpful Hints...** Creating a dance is just like writing a story. It must include a beginning, middle, and end. Use the following sheet on pantomime to help create movement sequences.