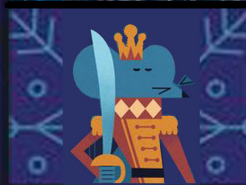
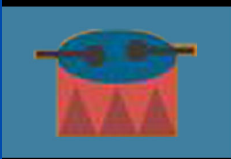


Benicia Ballet Theatre Presents

# The NUTCRACKER



2023



Benicia Ballet Theatre proudly presents

# The Nutcracker

December 16 and 17, 2023

Solano Community College Theater

Music Written by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Based on E.T.A Hoffman's tale The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Artistic Director ~ Teresa Taylor



*Benicia Ballet Theatre supports and encourages local artists to develop their talents by providing non-discriminatory performance opportunities within the Benicia, Vallejo, North and East Bay communities. All auditions are equal opportunity. Inspiring dance productions serve the local communities by making quality cultural activities open, affordable, and accessible to all residents and visitors to the area. The purpose of the organization is to provide public charitable and educational programs with no political involvement.*



# Letter From Artistic Director

Season's Greetings!

It's the time of year to reflect back on all there is to be grateful for. We at Benicia Ballet Theatre are grateful for you! We love feeling your support for our dancers and staff. We provide performing opportunities and in doing this we provide so much more. A community with a common bond and goal - putting on our annual Nutcracker! During the process team work, interconnectedness, thinking literally on your toes, follow through, bravery, perseverance and over coming obstacles and nerves are just a few of the life lessons learned. Some dancers have roles they aspire to and work towards for years. This kind of dedication and self discipline is not often found in our modern daily life. Becoming a proficient dancer takes a decade of commitment and sacrifice and we at Benicia Ballet are filled with gratitude to be on this journey with so many talented young people.

I want to thank the Board Of Directors who have tirelessly and selflessly worked all year behind the scenes, organizing, fund raising, goal setting and through their dedication to Benicia Ballet Theatre's mission of bringing performing opportunities and dance instruction to the North Bay have brought this production, our 33rd Nutcracker to life for you to enjoy today!

I hope that having seen our Nutcracker you are inspired to go out into the community and spread the joy of children, acceptance of others and generously offer kindness to those you encounter.

Many thanks to my husband John Metellus for supporting me on this journey and to our staff at Benicia Ballet who constantly give their very best to our dancers and the productions. Cheers to the large bevy of volunteers without who we could not put on productions of this size and quality. Thank you to the parents of our dancers who support their children in a multitude of unsung ways. From fundraising, buying T-shirts, ushering children from one class or rehearsal to another, providing snacks, cheerleading, the list is endless! We appreciate you and your support.

Happy Holidays!

Teresa Taylor  
Artistic Director  
Benicia Ballet Theatre



# The Nutcracker

## Act 1 ~ Overture

It is the eve of the Stahlbaum's annual Holiday party and the family is about to welcome their guests. Soon Frau and Dr. Stahlbaum along with their two children Clara and Fritz/Marie, friends and family will fill their great hall to celebrate the season of giving.

### Act 1 ~ Scene 1, The Holiday Party

Dr. And Frau Stahlbaum have invited a special guest, Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather and master toy maker. Mysterious Drosselmeyer always demonstrates his creations and this year is no exception. Perhaps his most dazzling yet. He's brought life sized dolls which come to life if only for a brief moment. Mesmerized by the magic of the beautiful Ballerina doll, fiery Tarantella, and the Toy Soldier and the Toy Soldier's recruits, Clara asks if she might keep one. To her disappointment none of these marvelous creations are for her she begins to weep. Fritz/Marie antagonizes Clara with their new riding horse when Drosselmeyer presents his gift for Clara, a stoic Nutcracker doll. Now the tables have turned. Why does she get a magnificent toy and all they get is a fancy broomstick? Surely she will let me play with it, Fritz/Marie thinks. Quickly years of sibling rivalry displays itself as a pursuit of this prized possession ensues. Before we know it Clara and Fritz/Marie are in an out right tug of war and the Nutcracker slips through Clara's hands and Fritz/Marie drops it to the floor. Embarrassed by this behavior, Fritz/Marie are sent to bed before the party comes to an end. Crafty Drosselmeyer bandages the broken toy and advises Clara that at midnight the doll will be fixed. The guests depart. The Stahlbaums wish Clara a good night as they sit together with their dear friend Drosselmeyer as he tinkers with the broken toy.

### Act 1 ~ Scene 2, The Battle and Snow Scene

Clara can't sleep. She is worrying and waiting for midnight when her cherished toy will have healed. She rushes to the great hall and finds the doll where she had left it during the party still broken and bandaged. She cradles her doll and finally falls asleep. While the family sleep, mischief is simply too irresistible for a mouse... Clara is awakened by a stirring sound and to her astonishment, the great hall is crawling with the largest mice she's ever seen! Undisturbed by her presence, Clara looks to hide from the scurrying creatures when to her relief, Drosselmeyer arrives. She tells him of the huge mice and he calls his Toy Soldiers to come to her aid. He reminds her it's 12am, but her Nutcracker is nowhere to be found, suddenly the Nutcracker appears, and is magically larger than life! Protected by the Nutcracker and his Calvary, Clara feels ready to face the unusually large rodents, that is until the Mouse King/Queen arrives! The MouseKing/Queen wants nothing more than to capture the Nutcracker, when suddenly it's Clara who must lead the Toy Soldiers to save her beloved Nutcracker. But the mice are cunning and victory for either side seems a loss when Clara decides enough is enough and forces the dueling sides to come to a truce. Now that the fighting is over, there is something familiar about that Mouse King/Queen, why it is an enchanted Fritz/Marie! Clara reaches out to Fritz/Marie, who saved the Nutcracker from impending doom.

She showers all the love and forgiveness she can muster and the siblings make up. Unbeknownst to her, the Nutcracker is revealed to be the Royal Guard of the Sugar Plum Fairy from the Land of Sweets, who has been trapped in the body of the toy for far too long. The children must return the Nutcracker to the Land of Sweets to release them from the enchantment. The Snow Crystals, having heard the battle, offer introduction to the Snow Queen who can ensure safe passage through the treacherous blizzard in the Kingdom of Snow.

## INTERMISSION

### Act 2 ~ Land of the Sweets

At the pavilion of the Sugar Plum fairy castle Harlequins merrily keep the court pleased with their performance. When the Kingdom Attendant announce the Stars have news of the Nutcracker's return. The Sugar Plum Attendants guide a sled to the palace carrying the Nutcracker and the two children through the Land of the Sweets. Along the way they are greeted by residents of this magical kingdom. The Sugar Plum Fairy emerges and inquires about the Nutcracker and the status they find themselves in. Clara and Fritz/Maire relay their story to the court who finds that the enchantment for the Nutcracker must be breakable and with the flip of her wrist the Nutcracker is freed. To show her appreciation the Sugar Plum Fairy has her subjects offer their gratitude, inviting Fritz to try the chocolate. The Nutcracker displays their dazzling saber handling, and the Sugar Plum Fairy graces them with her quick footwork. While the children have enjoyed their time in the Kingdom of Sweets, it is time to return home.

## Epilogue

The Sugar Plum Fairy guides Clara back to the Stahlbaum home where she falls quickly to sleep. Drosselmeyer appears and places the good-as-new Nutcracker in Clara's arms. She wakes to find herself in her own home and is delighted to find her Nutcracker safely tucked under her arm no longer broken. Clara embraces the gift that has brought her so much joy. But when her eyes lift for long enough to notice Fritz/Maire, she knows that her heart would be complete by giving the toy to Fritz/Marie.

THE END





# Cast

Saturday December 16, 2:00 pm

Clara .....	Sofie Tanner	Mice .....	Alayna Harris
Fritz/Mouse King .....	Ethan Throne	Mice .....	Clara Kjelland
Dr Stahlbaum .....	Collin Ziemer	Mice .....	Josephine Fernandez
Drosselmeyer .....	Terrill Mead	Mice .....	Mackenzie Gillihan
Frau Stahlbaum .....	Gillian Mead	Mice .....	Olivia Anne Jacobson
Governess .....	Naomi Mittman	Mice .....	Quinn Nucum
Clara's Friend .....	Dyani Rea	Mice .....	Teresa Gordon
Clara's Friend .....	Zyanya Aviles	Mice .....	Wiatt McQueen
Little Party Girl .....	Lucy Perez	Nutcracker .....	Emerson Dravland
Little Party Girl .....	Penelope Lockwood	Snow Flurry .....	Anna Reyes
Little Party Girl .....	Savannah Hernandez	Snow Flurry .....	Jamie Morris
Little Party Girl .....	Tilden Armoskus-Damm	Snow Flurry .....	Jezelle Zahner
Party Boy .....	Braeden Soulier	Snow Flurry .....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles
Party Girl .....	Claire Mikkelsen	Snow Crystals .....	Jada Davis
Party Girl .....	Iolana Rodrigues	Snow Crystals .....	Samantha Hernandez
Party Girl .....	Leah Reyes	Snow Queen .....	Olivia Zmak
Party Girl .....	Mary Katherine Dugan	Snowflake .....	Ainsley Rippee
Party Girl .....	Samantha Sigua	Snowflake .....	Ava Dravland
Party Girl .....	Winslow McQueen	Snowflake .....	Bells Calvo
Party Parent .....	Nicholas Stohlman	Snowflake .....	Sienna Soulier
Party Parent .....	Cherie Stohlman	Snowflake .....	Gianna Zahner
Party Parent .....	Tiffany Anderson	Snowflake .....	Morgan Anderson
Party Parent .....	Wade Anderson	Snowflake .....	Gillian Mead
Party Parent .....	Lisa Mikkelsen	Snowflake .....	Naomi Mittman
Party Parent .....	Alan Dravland	Snowflake .....	Nanami Stewart
Ballerina Doll .....	Astrid Estensen	Snowflake .....	Charlie Manuel
Tarantella Doll .....	Rosaleah Mitchell	Snowflake .....	Ella Throne
Toy Soldier Doll .....	Scarlet Stockton	Harlequin .....	Claire Mikkelsen
Soldier Doll .....	Abigail Sloniker	Harlequin .....	Hanna Cao
Soldier Doll .....	Amaya Harris	Harlequin .....	Jazmin Brewster
Soldier Doll .....	Atheera Muniandy	Harlequin .....	Scarlet Stockton
Soldier Doll .....	Braeden Soulier	Kingdom Attendant .....	Braeden Soulier
Soldier Doll .....	Ella Gatchalian		
Soldier Doll .....	Jaylyn Sta Maria		
Solider Doll .....	Kendall Dela Cruz		
Solider Doll .....	Nora Ansley		
Solider Doll .....	Vayda Gardner		

## Saturday December 16, 2:00 pm

Stars .....	Abigail Sloniker	Ribbon Candy .....	Atheera Muniandy
Stars .....	Nora Ansley	Ribbon Candy .....	Jaylyn Sta Maria
Stars .....	Clara Kjelland	Ribbon Candy .....	Samantha Sigua
Stars .....	Mackenzie Gillihan	Ribbon Candy .....	Winslow McQueen
Stars .....	Quinn Nucum	Ribbon Candy Lead .....	Rayn Calvo
Stars .....	Savannah Hernandez	Rose .....	Nanami Stewart
Sugar Plum Attendant .....	Dyani Rea	Flowers .....	Ainsley Rippee
Sugar Plum Attendant .....	Zyanya Aviles	Flowers .....	Astrid Estensen
Sugar Plum Fairy .....	Ineza Marekani	Flowers .....	Bells Calvo
Chocolate .....	Anna Reyes	Flowers .....	Charlie Manuel
Chocolate .....	Jamie Morris	Flowers .....	Ava Dravland
Chocolate .....	Jezelle Zahner	Flowers .....	Ella Throne
Chocolate .....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles	Flowers .....	Maya Vohra
Chocolate .....	Ethan Throne	Flowers .....	Rosaleah Mitchell
Coffee .....	Jada Davis	Flowers .....	Jazmin Brewster
Tea .....	Amaya Harris	Flowers .....	Sienna Soulier
Tea .....	Hanna Cao	Flowers .....	Yui Stewart
Tea .....	Iolana Rodrigues	Flowers .....	Gianna Zahner
Tea .....	Kendall Dela Cruz		
Little Tea .....	Ella Gatchalian		
Little Tea .....	Lucy Perez		
Little Tea .....	Penelope Lockwood		
Little Tea .....	Tilden Armoskus-Damm		
Little Tea .....	Vayda Gardner		
Marzipan .....	Charlie Manuel		
Marzipan .....	Gillian Mead		
Marzipan .....	Olivia Zmak		
Marzipan .....	Maya Vohra		
Marzipan .....	Morgan Anderson		
Marzipan .....	Samantha Hernandez		
Marzipan .....	Naomi Mittman		
Marzipan .....	Astrid Estensen		
Mother Ginger .....	Cherie Stohlman		
Gingerbread .....	Alayna Harris		
Gingerbread .....	Josephine Fernandez		
Gingerbread .....	Leah Reyes		
Gingerbread .....	Mary Katherine Dugan		
Gingerbread .....	Olivia Anne Jacobson		
Gingerbread .....	Teresa Gordon		
Gingerbread .....	Wiatt McQueen		

## Saturday December 16, 7:00 pm

Clara .....	Yui Stewart	Mice .....	Alayna Harris
Fritz/Mouse King .....	Ethan Throne	Mice .....	Clara Kjelland
Dr Stahlbaum .....	Terrill Mead	Mice .....	Josephine Fernandez
Drosselmeyer .....	Collin Ziemer	Mice .....	Mackenzie Gillihan
Frau Stahlbaum .....	Alicia Brewster	Mice .....	Olivia Anne Jacobson
Governess .....	Naomi Mittman	Mice .....	Quinn Nucum
Clara's Friend .....	Dyani Rea	Mice .....	Teresa Gordon
Clara's Friend .....	Zyanya Aviles	Mice .....	Wiatt McQueen
Little Party Girl .....	Lucy Perez	Nutcracker .....	Emerson Dravland
Little Party Girl .....	Penelope Lockwood	Snow Flurry .....	Anna Reyes
Little Party Girl .....	Savannah Hernandez	Snow Flurry .....	Jamie Morris
Little Party Girl .....	Tilden Armoskus-Damm	Snow Flurry .....	Jezelle Zahner
Party Boy .....	Braeden Soulier	Snow Flurry .....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles
Party Girl .....	Claire Mikkelsen	Snow Crystals .....	Jada Davis
Party Girl .....	Iolana Rodrigues	Snow Crystals .....	Samantha Hernandez
Party Girl .....	Leah Reyes	Snow Queen .....	Nanami Stewart
Party Girl .....	Mary Katherine Dugan	Snowflake .....	Ainsley Rippee
Party Girl .....	Samantha Sigua	Snowflake .....	Ava Dravland
Party Girl .....	Winslow McQueen	Snowflake .....	Bells Calvo
Party Parent .....	Nicholas Stohlman	Snowflake .....	Sienna Soulier
Party Parent .....	Cherie Stohlman	Snowflake .....	Ineza Marekani
Party Parent .....	Lisa Mikkelsen	Snowflake .....	Morgan Anderson
Party Parent .....	Alan Dravland	Snowflake .....	Gillian Mead
Party Parent .....	Anissa Sims	Snowflake .....	Naomi Mittman
Party Parent .....	Ross Soulier	Snowflake .....	Olivia Zmak
Ballerina Doll .....	Bells Calvo	Snowflake .....	Charlie Manuel
Tarantella Doll .....	Rosaleah Mitchell	Snowflake .....	Rayn Calvo
Toy Soldier Doll .....	Jazmin Brewster	Harlequin .....	Claire Mikkelsen
Soldier Doll .....	Abigail Sloniker	Harlequin .....	Hanna Cao
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Soldier Doll .....	Jaylyn Sta Maria		
Solider Doll .....	Kendall Dela Cruz		
Solider Doll .....	Nora Ansley		
Solider Doll .....	Vayda Gardner		



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Stars .....	Abigail Sloniker	Ribbon Candy .....	Atheera Muniandy
Stars .....	Nora Ansley	Ribbon Candy .....	Jaylyn Sta Maria
Stars .....	Clara Kjelland	Ribbon Candy .....	Samantha Sigua
Stars .....	Mackenzie Gillihan	Ribbon Candy .....	Winslow McQueen
Stars .....	Quinn Nucum	Ribbon Candy Lead .....	Rayn Calvo
Stars .....	Savannah Hernandez	Rose .....	Olivia Zmak
Sugar Plum Attendant ....	Dyani Rea	Flowers .....	Ainsley Rippee
Sugar Plum Attendant ....	Zyanya Aviles	Flowers .....	Astrid Estensen
Sugar Plum Fairy .....	Gianna Zahner	Flowers .....	Bells Calvo
Chocolate .....	Anna Reyes	Flowers .....	Charlie Manuel
Chocolate .....	Jamie Morris	Flowers .....	Ava Dravland
Chocolate .....	Jezelle Zahner	Flowers .....	Ella Throne
Chocolate .....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles	Flowers .....	Maya Vohra
Chocolate .....	Ethan Throne	Flowers .....	Rosaleah Mitchell
Coffee .....	Gillian Mead	Flowers .....	Scarlet Stockton
Tea .....	Amaya Harris	Flowers .....	Sienna Soulier
Tea .....	Hanna Cao	Flowers .....	Sofie Tanner
Tea .....	Iolana Rodrigues	Flowers .....	Nanami Stewart
Tea .....	Kendall Dela Cruz		
Little Tea .....	Ella Gatchalian		
Little Tea .....	Lucy Perez		
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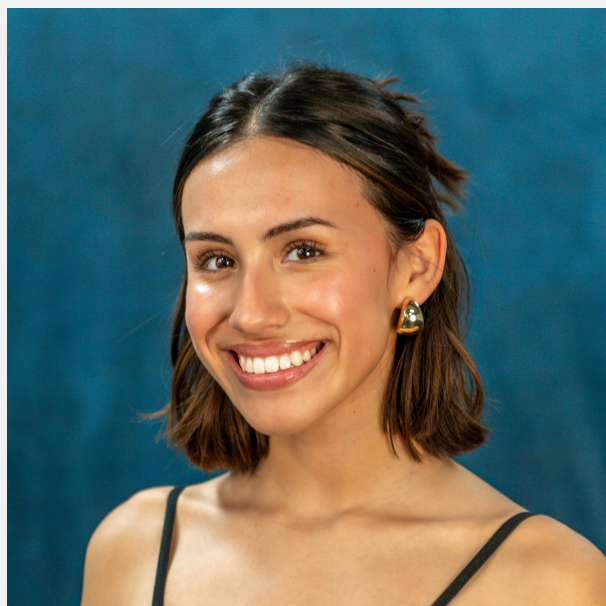
Clara .....	Yui Stewart	Mice .....	Alayna Harris
Marie/Mouse Queen...	Rayn Calvo	Mice .....	Clara Kjelland
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Sugar Plum Fairy .....	Gillian Mead	Flowers .....	Bells Calvo
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Chocolate .....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles	Flowers .....	Maya Vohra
Chocolate .....	Ethan Throne	Flowers .....	Rosaleah Mitchell
Coffee .....	Samantha Hernandez	Flowers .....	Daphne Sama
Tea .....	Amaya Harris	Flowers .....	Sienna Soulier
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Gingerbread .....	Teresa Gordon		
Gingerbread .....	Wiatt McQueen		

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# Benicia Ballet Seniors



Samantha Hernandez



Gianna Zahner



Gillian Mead



Jada Davis



# Production Staff

Artistic Director .....Teresa Taylor

Associate Director.....Frances Lai Baca

Choreographers.....Frances Lai Baca  
Teresa Taylor  
Alexis Risi  
Tina Zahner

Theatre Manager.....Craig Scharfen

Stage Manager.....Frances Lai Baca

Assistant Stage Manager.....John Metellus

Lighting Design.....Jon Gourdine revised by Will Schmidt

Photography.....Peter Lichty

Videographer.....Louie Dela Cruz

Costume Manager.....Frances Lai Baca

Costume Coordinator.....Tessa Zahner

Costume Assistants.....Beth Sama  
Chelsey Villanueva  
Catherine Sartmiento  
Stella Sarmiento  
Steven Mattingly  
Amandine Marekani  
Diana Van Buren

## Board of Directors

President .....Layla Fernandez

Secretary.....Joy Manuel

Members at Large.....Rosana Aguliar  
Reggie Mitchell  
Kayoko Stewart  
Cathrine Sarimento  
Stella Sacramento  
Diana Smith

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR MANY HOURS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!



# Special Thanks

## To all the Benicia Ballet Theatre Sponsors

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Gold .....	Heather and Collin Ziemer
Platinum .....	Lisa Mikkelsen Teresa Taylor and John Metellus

# SLEEPING BEAUTY AUDITIONS

January 20, 2024

Benicia Ballet Studios

390 Military E in Benicia

Ages 4 and Up

Everyone who Auditions gets a role!



Rehearsals Saturday afternoons beginning in February

Performance at Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre

April 27, 2024



For More information - [info@beniciaballet.com](mailto:info@beniciaballet.com)

707-746-6756

[beniciaballet.com](http://beniciaballet.com)