

Benicia Ballet Theater presents The Nutcracker





Benicia Ballet Theatre proudly presents

The Nutcracker

December 17 and 18, 2022

Music Written by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

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

Artistic Director ~ Teresa Taylor

Solano Community College Theater

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

I want to welcome you to Benicia Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker. I feel as if we are emerging from a cocoon. Being back in the theater again to share this annual tradition with a full and live audience feels like we are emerging from a chrysalis. As the Curtain opens the entire cast will spread its wings and take flight. Thank you for coming and sharing in the excitement!

I am proud to be working alongside such a dedicated Board of Directors, creative faculty, supportive staff and a volunteer army all supported by you, our patrons.

I'm inspired by the students' dedication and their families supporting them. The old adage "It takes a village!" holds true in this instance. To put on The Nutcracker it takes that village! One of the things I love about the performing arts is how we all come together in community to achieve this single goal, our beloved Nutcracker.

I want to extend a special Thanks to Heather Ziemer. She has been on our board for 7 years and the Board President steadfastly for the past 5 turbulent years. Her unending support and generosity have enabled myself and BBT to continue the pursuit of our mission striving to provide the North and East Bay Communities excellence in dance training and performance opportunities for our local artists and to provide inspiring productions for our audience. Going from the pinnacle of Benicia Ballet Theatre's five Nutcracker's performance and largest audience attendance ever in 2019 to our closures and cancellations of our Spring show in April and Summer Workshops in 2020. We were able to share our filmed version of Nutcracker ReImagined in December 2020, Harmony, Together as One was filmed onstage and streamed to our audience in May 2021. The Nutcracker 2021 we were able to have our families watch live in a private viewing in the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre as well as streamed to our larger audience's homes. Cinderella in the spring of 2022 saw 2 performances with live audiences. It hasn't been an easy path but Heather was resolute in her determination to see Benicia Ballet Theatre continue into the future!

I also want to extend my gratitude to France Lai Baca who stepped in to direct this production of The Nutcracker while I was recuperating from surgery. She did so gracefully, with the vision of a seasoned veteran. My appreciation extends to her family who supported her while she dedicated her time to our production. She alongside Alexis Risi, Tina Zahner and Maddie Alford bring the choreography to life through our dancers for you, our amazing audience to enjoy.

Last, but not least, my appreciation for the support of my family goes beyond words.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyous holiday season,

Teresa Taylor
Artistic Director,
Benicia Ballet Theatre

The Nutcracker

Act 1 ~ Overture

Our story is set in Germany on Christmas Eve 1885, the local toy maker Herr Drosselmeyer, his apprentice, and nephew prepare to attend holiday festivities at the home of Dr. and Frau Stahlbaum.

Act I, Scene 1 ~ The Holiday Party

The Stahlbaum home has been decorated for their annual holiday party. Dr. and Frau Stahlbaum fuss over the finishing touches before calling their children into the great hall. Clara and Fritz are delighted at the marvelous transformation their family home has taken and the festive attire they've been adorned in. Party guests arrive, family and friends join the joyous occasion, celebrating life and community. The children engage in games and dancing as they await the party's special guest. Mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's Godfather is both magical and strange but creates the most incredible toys. He is a major highlight of the Stahlbaum's events. This year he's brought along his new apprentice Karl, who plays games with the children and helps to reveal Drosselmeyer's latest creations, life-like mechanical dolls, the Soldier, Ballerina and the Tarantella Dolls. The dolls enchant all of the children and must be whisked away for fear of ruin. While the children are presented with gifts Clara approaches Herr Drosselmeyer to congratulate him on his craft, and ask if perhaps she might keep one? Drosselmeyer urges her pardon as he continues to usher his creations away, disappointed Clara walks away. Sensing her defeat, Drosselmeyer presents Clara with her last toy gift of childhood, a handmade wooden Nutcracker. Delighted with his stoic stance, gold embellishments and novel moving mouth, she dances around presenting her doll to her friends and family. Fritz, Clara's younger brother, is jealous of her gift. He interrupts her enchanted dance and breaks the gift. Drosselmeyer rushes in to assess the situation and repairs the doll as best he can under the circumstances. Clara's concern for the welfare of her gift is dissolved by his solution and she carefully tends to it. The doll is set aside and the party continues with the Grandfather Dance, wherein Clara is invited to dance with the adults for the first time, her youthful excitement cannot be contained. The party concludes, the guests depart, Fritz and Clara retire for the night, only Drosselmeyer, his nephew and Karl are left to toast the hosts.

Act I, Scene 2 ~ The Battle

After their toast, Drosselmeyer demonstrates one more mysterious trick for his assistant Karl. Suddenly, Karl feels sick and excuses himself. Herr Drosselmeyer is left in the quiet of the hall, casting spells over the home. He then sneaks away in the still of the night. The silence of the home is interrupted by unusually large mischievous creatures as they gather for their holiday feast. Clara is awakened by strange noises and startles a horde of mice! They begin to antagonize her, chasing her throughout the room. Concerned for her Nutcracker Clara dashes to retrieve it and the mice surround her. Unexpectedly a platoon of toy soldiers appear and initially drive out the rodents. As Clara begins to feel at ease the mice reappear, Drosselmeyer returns and scares them away. He takes the Nutcracker to safety as the Royal Guards and soldiers come to life. Just then the toy Nutcracker returns life sized and alive! The Nutcracker leads his army of Royal Guards and soldiers and whisks Clara away. The Mouse King, not one to back away from a chance to defend his territory, calls his mice to battle. A great exchange between the soldiers and mice ensues before the Nutcracker and Mouse King go toe-to-toe. The Nutcracker suffers huge blows at the hand of the Mouse King who prematurely claims his victory. The Nutcracker and Clara defeat him together and watch the Mouse King fall to his demise.

Act 1 ~ Scene 3 Land of Snow

The relief Clara feels is short lived as she notices the Nutcracker collapse. Distraught Clara steps away to collect herself, she returns to confirm her suspicions when she sees him begin to come to life however this time not as a life sized doll but he's been transformed into a Prince. They take hands and run off just as a snow storm begins to form. Snowfall is steady and swift as the Snow Queen delights in the magnificent shapes her snowflakes create. She greets Clara and the Prince and clears a path through her blizzard for them to safely pass and the storm concludes as delicately as it began.

Intermission

Act II ~ The Kingdom of Sweets

After traveling through the Land of Snow, Clara and her Prince arrive in the Kingdom of Sweets. They are treated by angels, stars and the reigning Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince tells of the battle and how they defeated the Mouse King and his army of mice. The Sugar Plum Fairy, Queen of the realm and mother of the Prince is so grateful that she crowns Clara Princess of the Kingdom. In a royal celebration she honors and entertains Clara and the Prince with a showcase of her Kingdom. The Spanish Chocolate, French Marzipan, Chinese Tea, Russian Dancers, Arabian Coffee, Mother Ginger and Gingerbread Cookies, the Rose and her Court of Flowers all perform. As the highlight of the celebration, the elegant Sugar Plum Fairy dances.

Act II ~ Conclusion

The celebration of Clara and her Prince concludes and Clara is transported back to her family home. Upon waking she realizes the battle, snowstorm, and Kingdom of Sweets was all a dream. Her parents are there to comfort her and delight in their love and shared moments together.

The End

Production Staff

Director of Nutcracker.....Frances Lai Baca
ChoreographersFrances Lai Baca,
Alexis Risi, Tina Zahner, Maddie Alford
Theatre Manager.....Craig Scharfen
Stage Manager.....Frances Lai Baca
Assistant Stage Manager.....John Metellus
Lighting Design.....Jon Gourdine

Artistic Director.....Teresa Taylor
Photography.....Peter Lichty
Videographer.....Louie Dela Cruz
Costume Coordinator.....Will Zmak
Costume Assistants.....Lesli Colina,
Kate Davis, Beth Sama, Tessa Zahner

Thanks to all of our volunteers for their many hours of hard work and dedication!

Cast A - December 17, 7:00 pm

Dr. Stahlbaum.....	Alan Dravland	Governess.....	Emerson Dravland
Frau Stahlbaum.....	Alicia Brewster	Toy Soldier Doll...	Rosaleah Mitchel
Drosselmeyer.....	Collin Ziemer	Ballerina Doll.....	Daphne Sama
Karl.....	Nathan Throne	Tarantella Doll.....	Bells Calvo
Dosselmeyer's Nephew.....	Lester Dickinson	Fritz.....	Ethan Throne
Party Boys.....	Braeden Soulier, Forrest Spirou, Oliver Spirou		
Clara.....	Naomi Mittman		
Clara's Friends.....	Morgan Anderson, Charlie Manuel		
Party Girls.....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Elle Allore, Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Hailey Jackson, Wiatt McQueen, Atheera Munlandy, Anna Reyes, Samantha Sigua, Jezelle Zahner		
Little Party Girls.....	Vayda Gardner, Ella Gatchalian, Amaya Harris, Neorah Swain		
Party Parents.....	Tiffany Anderson, Wade Anderson, Jose Cercone, Christin Eales, Ella Kohls, Gerry Townzen		
Nutcracker Prince.....	Nathan Throne		
Royal Guards.....	Leah Dickinson, Maya Vohra		
Soldiers.....	Rhayln Braatz, Josephine Fernandez, Mackenzie Gillihan, Teresa Gordon, Alayna Harris, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco, Leah Reyes		
Mouse King.....	Riley McGee		
Mice.....	Jazmin Brewster, Rayn Calvo, Kendall Dela Cruz, Audrey Eales, Sienna Soulier, Jaylyn Sta Maria,, Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner, Ella Throne		
Snow Queen.....	Ineza Marekani		
Snow Demi-Soloist.....	Ella Kohls, Kennedy Plummer		
Snowflakes.....	Maddie Alford, Morgan Anderson, Jada Davis, Astrid Estenson, Lia Lawrence, Charlie Manuel, Nanami Stewart, Grace Thompson, Grace Wymer, Gianna Zahner, Olivia Zmak		
Kingdom Attendant.....	Lester Dickinson, Forrest Spirou, Ethan Throne		
Angels.....	Rhayln Braatz, Mackenzie Gillihan, Alayna Harris		
Sugar Plum Attendant.....	Samantha Sigua, Jezelle Zahner		
Gold Star.....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Hailey Jackson, Anna Reyes, Jaylyn Sta Maria		
Silver Star.....	Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Wiatt McQueen, Leah Reyes		
Harlequinn Duet.....	Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner		
Spanish Chocolate Lead.....	Ella Kohls		
Spanish Chocolate.....	Rosaleah Mitchel, Ella Throne		
Chinese Tea.....	Ineza Marekani, Nanami Stewart, Gianna Zahner, Olivia Zmak		

Marzipan Duet.....Jada Davis, Lia Lawrence
 Wolf.....Sofia Tanner
 Lambs.....Josephine Fernandez, Teresa Gordon, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco,
 Braeden Soulier, Oliver Spirou
 Russian Ribbon Candy Lead.....Charlie Manuel
 Russian Ribbon Candy.....Jazmin Brewster, Rayn Calvo, Audrey Eales, Sienna Soulier, Ethan Throne
 Arabian Coffee Lead.....Kennedy Plummer
 Arabian Coffee.....Kendall Dela Cruz, Leah Dickinson, Emerson Dravland, Riley McGee
 Mother Ginger.....Jeannine Tanner
 Cookies.....Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Elle Allore, Hanna Cao, Wiatt McQueen, Atheera
 Munlandy, Anna Reyes
 Rose.....Gianna Zahner
 Flowers.....Maddie Alford, Morgan Anderson, Bells Calvo, Astrid Estenson, Ineza
 Marekani, Daphne Sama, Nanami Stewart, Maya Vohra, Grace Wymer, Olivia Zmak
 Sugar Plum Fairy.....Gillian Mead

Cast B - December 18, 1:00 pm

Dr. Stahlbaum.....Alan Dravland	Governess.....Maya Vohra
Frau Stahlbaum.....Gillian Mead	Toy Soldier Doll.....Ella Throne
Drosselmeyer.....Terril Mead	Ballerina Doll.....Astrid Estenson
Karl.....Nathan Throne	Tarantella Doll.....Charlie Manuel
Dosselmeyer's Nephew.....Lester Dickinson	Fritz.....Ethan Throne

Party Boys.....Braeden Soulier, Forrest Spirou, Oliver Spirou
 Clara.....Olivia Zmak
 Clara's Friends.....Bells Calvo, Daphne Sama
 Party Girls.....Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Elle Allore, Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Hailey Jackson, Wiatt
 McQueen, Atheera Munlandy, Anna Reyes, Samantha Sigua, Jezelle Zahner
 Little Party Girls.....Vayda Gardner, Ella Gatchalian, Amaya Harris, Neorah Swain
 Party Parents.....Tiffany Anderson, Wade Anderson, Jose Cercone, Christin Eales, Ella Kohls, Gerry
 Townzen
 Nutcracker Prince.....Nathan Throne
 Royal Guards.....Leah Dickinson, Riley McGee
 Soldiers.....Rhayln Braatz, Josephine Fernandez, Mackenzie Gillihan, Teresa Gordon, Alayna
 Harris, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco, Leah Reyes
 Mouse King.....Emerson Dravland

Mice.....Jazmin Brewster, Rayn Calvo, Kendall Dela Cruz, Audrey Eales, Rosaleah Mitchel,
 Sienna Soulier, Jaylyn Sta Maria, Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner
 Snow Queen.....Nanami Stewart
 Snow Demi-Soloist.....Ella Kohls, Kennedy Plummer
 Snowflakes.....Maddie Alford, Morgan Anderson, Bells Calvo, Jada Davis, Lia Lawrence, Ineza
 Marekani, Gillian Mead, Naomi Mittman, Daphne Sama, Grace Wymer, Gianna Zahner
 Kingdom Attendant.....Lester Dickinson, Forrest Spirou, Ethan Throne
 Angels.....Rhayln Braatz, Mackenzie Gillihan, Alayna Harris
 Sugar Plum Attendant.....Elle Allore, Kendall Dela Cruz
 Gold Star.....Hailey Jackson, Anna Reyes, Samantha Sigua, Jaylyn Sta Maria
 Silver Star.....Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Wiatt McQueen, Leah Reyes
 Harlequinn Duet.....Rayn Calvo, Sienna Soulier
 Spanish Chocolate Lead.....Gianna Zahner
 Spanish Chocolate.....Rosaleah Mitchel, Ella Throne
 Little Chinese Tea Duet.....Jazmin Brewster, Audrey Eales
 Little Chinese Tea.....Vayda Gardner, Ella Gatchalian, Amaya Harris, Neorah Swain
 Marzipan Duet.....Bells Calvo, Maya Vohra
 Wolf.....Ethan Throne
 Lambs.....Josephine Fernandez, Teresa Gordon, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco, Braeden
 Soulier, Oliver Spirou
 Russian Ribbon Candy Lead.....Daphne Sama
 Russian Ribbon Candy.....Leah Dickinson, Emerson Dravland, Lia Lawrence, Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner
 Arabian Coffee Lead.....Nanami Stewart
 Arabian Coffee.....Morgan Anderson, Hailey Jackson, Riley McGee, Sienna Soulier
 Mother Ginger.....Jeannine Tanner
 Cookies.....Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Elle Allore, Wiatt McQueen, Atheera Munlandy, Anna
 Reyes, Jezelle Zahner
 Rose.....Ineza Marekani
 Flowers.....Maddie Alford, Jada Davis, Astrid Estenson, Ella Kohls, Charlie Manuel, Naomi
 Mittman, Kennedy Plummer, Daphne Sama, Grace Wymer, Gianna Zahner
 Sugar Plum Fairy.....Grace Thompson

Cast C - December 18, 5:00 pm

Dr. Stahlbaum.....	Alan Dravland	Governess.....	Emerson Dravland
Frau Stahlbaum.....	Alicia Brewster	Toy Soldier Doll.....	Rosaleah Mitchel
Drosselmeyer.....	Collin Ziemer	Ballerina Doll.....	Daphne Sama
Karl.....	Nathan Throne	Tarantella Doll.....	Bells Calvo
Drosselmeyer's Nephew.....	Lester Dickinson	Fritz.....	Ethan Throne
Party Boys.....	Braeden Soulier, Forrest Spirou, Oliver Spirou		
Clara.....	Naomi Mittman		
Clara's Friends.....	Astrid Estenson, Charlie Manuel		
Party Girls.....	Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Elle Allore, Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Hailey Jackson, Wiatt McQueen, Atheera Munlandy, Anna Reyes, Samantha Sigua, Jezelle Zahner		
Little Party Girls.....	Vayda Gardner, Ella Gatchalian, Amaya Harris, Neorah Swain		
Party Parents.....	Tiffany Anderson, Wade Anderson, Jose Cercone, Christin Eales, Ella Kohls, Gerry Townzen		
Nutcracker Prince.....	Nathan Throne		
Royal Guards.....	Leah Dickinson, Maya Vohra		
Soldiers.....	Rhayln Braatz, Josephine Fernandez, Mackenzie Gillihan, Teresa Gordon, Alayna Harris, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco, Leah Reyes		
Mouse King.....	Riley McGee		
Mice.....	Jazmin Brewster, Rayn Calvo, Kendall Dela Cruz, Audrey Eales, Sienna Soulier, Jaylyn Sta Maria, Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner, Ella Throne		
Snow Queen.....	Ineza Marekani		
Snow Demi-Soloist.....	Ella Kohls, Kennedy Plummer		
Snowflakes.....	Maddie Alford, Morgan Anderson, Jada Davis, Astrid Estenson, Lia Lawrence, Charlie Manuel, Nanami Stewart, Grace Thompson, Grace Wymer, Gianna Zahner, Olivia Zmak		
Kingdom Attendant.....	Lester Dickinson, Forrest Spirou, Ethan Throne		
Angels.....	Rhayln Braatz, Mackenzie Gillihan, Alayna Harris		
Sugar Plum Attendant.....	Kendall Dela Cruz, Atheera Munlandy		
Gold Star.....	Hailey Jackson, Anna Reyes, Samantha Sigua, Jaylyn Sta Maria		
Silver Star.....	Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Wiatt McQueen, Leah Reyes		
Harlequinn Duet.....	Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner		
Spanish Chocolate Lead.....	Ella Kohls		
Spanish Chocolate.....	Rosaleah Mitchel, Ella Throne		
Little Chinese Tea Duet.....	Jazmin Brewster, Audrey Eales		

Little Chinese Tea.....Vayda Gardner, Ella Gatchalian, Amaya Harris, Neorah Swain
 Marzipan Duet.....Astrid Estenson, Lia Lawrence
 Wolf.....Ethan Throne
 Lambs.....Josephine Fernandez, Teresa Gordon, Clara Kjelland, Viviana Pulanco, Braeden
 Soulier, Oliver Spirou
 Russian Ribbon Candy Lead.....Jada Davis
 Russian Ribbon Candy.....Morgan Anderson, Jazmin Brewster, Rayn Calvo, Audrey Eales, Sienna Soulier
 Arabian Coffee Lead.....Kennedy Plummer
 Arabian Coffee.....Leah Dickinson, Emerson Dravland, Riley McGee, Jaylyn Sta Maria
 Mother Ginger.....Jeannine Tanner
 Cookies.....Elle Allore, Zoey Braatz, Hanna Cao, Wiatt McQueen, Atheera Munlandy, Anna Reyes
 Rose.....Gianna Zahner
 Flowers.....Maddie Alford, Bells Calvo, Ella Kohls, Charlie Manuel, Ineza Marekani, Daphne Sama,
 Nanami Stewart, Maya Vohra, Grace Wymer, Olivia Zmak
 Sugar Plum Fairy.....Gillian Mead

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Special thanks to the Benicia Ballet Theatre members for their support!

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 store at www.beniciaballet.com and purchase the annual \$25.00 membership fee.
