



*Benicia Ballet Theatre proudly presents*

## ***The Nutcracker***

*Music Written by Peter I. Tchaikovsky*

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

Artistic Director ~ Teresa Taylor

Associate Artistic Director ~ Jacquelyn Zilka

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre

Saturday, November 20, 2021, 3:30 pm

*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.*

# The Nutcracker

## Act I, Scene 1 ~ The Christmas Party

Our story is set in Germany on Christmas Eve 1885, at the home of Dr. and Frau Stahlbaum. Clara, their twelve-year-old daughter, is filled with excitement as she eagerly awaits this special holiday celebration. As the story begins, the Stahlbaums prepare for their annual Christmas celebration. Clara and Fritz burst into the parlor to view the beautiful Christmas tree. Soon, guests arrive with armloads of holiday gifts and join the merriment with holiday toasts and dancing. The mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer and his handsome nephew Karl are the last guests to arrive. Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather, is a strange old man who creates beautiful life-sized toys to enchant the children. To the wonderment of the guests, he unveils his wonderful, mechanical dancing toys, the Soldier Doll, the Ballerina Doll and the Tarantella Doll. Clara pleads with her mother to let her keep the beautiful dolls for her own. When mother says "no," Herr Drosselmeyer intervenes with a special gift just for Clara. It is a large wooden Nutcracker. She is absolutely delighted and dances around the room with her precious gift. Fritz, her mischievous brother, suddenly seizes the Nutcracker. It falls to the floor and breaks. Herr Drosselmeyer rescues the damaged gift. Clara and her friends join together in the cradle dance while Fritz is soundly scolded by his father. As the party ends and the guests depart, Clara reluctantly leaves her cherished Nutcracker under the Christmas tree as she and her family retire for the night.

## Act I, Scene 2 ~ The Battle & Scene 3 ~ The Land of the Snow

Suddenly at midnight, Herr Drosselmeyer appears at the Stahlbaum home to begin his magic spell. Awakened by strange noises, Clara creeps down the staircase into the dark shadowy parlor to see her wounded Nutcracker. To her surprise, huge gray mice emerge from every corner of the parlor. Soon, they surround Clara leaving her no way to escape. Herr Drosselmeyer reappears, rescues Clara, and casts his spell over the parlor. To Clara's amazement, the grandfather clock and the Christmas tree grow larger and larger. Then her toy Nutcracker becomes life-sized. The Nutcracker leads his army of Royal Guards and soldiers into battle with the mice. Soon the Nutcracker and Mouse King battle one-on-one and the Nutcracker is defeated. Clara, desperate, removes her slipper and hits the Mouse King square on the head. The Mouse King drops to the floor.

As Clara weeps in despair, her Nutcracker comes to life, transformed into a prince. He takes her by the hand and leads her through the forest to the Land of Snow. They are greeted by the Snow Queen and a flurry of white snowflakes.

## Intermission

## Act II ~ The Kingdom of Sweets

Upon entering the Kingdom of Sweets, Clara and her prince are greeted by angels, stars, and the reigning Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince tells of his battle and how he was saved by Clara's bravery. The regal Sugar Plum Fairy, who is Queen of the realm and mother of the Prince, is so grateful that she crowns Clara the Princess of the Kingdom. In a royal celebration she honors and entertains Clara and the Prince with Christmas delights that have come to life – dark Spanish Chocolate, aromatic Chinese Tea, sweet French Marzipan, rich Arabian Coffee, and the enchanting Rose with her Court of Flowers. As the highlight of the celebration, the elegant Sugar Plum Fairy dances. As Clara awakens from her sweet Christmas dream, she falls into the loving arms of her father.

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## The Cast

<b>Dr Stahlbaum</b> .....Alan Dravland	<b>Frau Stahlbaum</b> .....Jacquelyn Zilka
<b>Drosselmeyer</b> .....Collin Ziemer	<b>Governess</b> .....Jada Davis
<b>Toy Soldier</b> .....Charlie Manuel	<b>Ballerina Doll</b> .....Olivia Zmak
<b>Tarantella Doll</b> .....Natalie Coffman	<b>Fritz</b> .....Riley McGee
<b>Friend of Fritz</b> .....Noah Zilka	<b>Nephew/Nutcracker Prince</b> .....Nathan Throne
<b>Clara</b> .....Daphne Sama	<b>Friend of Clara</b> .....Naomi Mittman
<b>Parents – Family 1</b> .....Grace Wymer and Steve Wymer	
<b>Little Girls</b> .....Audrey Eales, Samantha Sigua, and Manuela Yamamoto	

**Parents – Family 2**.....Nanami Stewart and Joey Garcia  
**Little Girls**.....Kendall Dela Cruz, Hailey Jackson, and Sienna Soulier  
**Parents – Family 3**.....Julia Rodgers and Michael Rodgers  
**Young Boy**.....Eli Ruchames  
**Party Guests**.....Jazmin Brewster, Emerson Dravland, Rosaleah Mitchell, and Sofie Tanner  
**Mouse Queen**.....Ella Throne  
**Lead Mouse**.....Yui Stewart  
**Mice**.....Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Iolanda Rodrigues, Eli Ruchames, and Jezelle Zahner  
**Shooting Stars**.....Naomi Mittman and Maya Vohra  
**Snow Queen**.....Gillian Mead  
**Snow Demi-Soloists**.....Nanami Stewart and Gianna Zahner  
**Snowflakes**.....Alexa Belocura, Samantha Hernandez, Ella Kohls, Ineza Marekani, Victoria Montano Bethencourt, Julianna Perez, Kennedy Plummer, Julia Rodgers, and Grace Wymer  
**Kingdom Page**.....Ethan Throne  
**Kingdom Attendant**.....Rosaleah Mitchell  
**Angels**.....Alexandra Ascencio, Aurelia Dempsey, Josephine Fernandez, Betty Ruchames, Penelope Sahagun, Naina Sapra, Aurora Welling, and Reem Francesca Zawaydeh  
**Sugar Plum Attendants**.....Emerson Dravland, Riley McGee, Yui Stewart, Sofie Tanner, and Ella Throne  
**Sugar Plum Fairy**.....Grace Wymer  
**Lead Star**.....Jazmin Brewster  
**Stars**.....Kassandra Aguilar-Robles, Iolana Rodrigues, and Jezelle Zahner  
**Harlequin Soloist**.....Astrid Estenson  
**Spanish Soloist**.....Ineza Marekani  
**Chinese Tea Duet**.....Samantha Hernandez and Ella Kohls  
**Russian Soloist**.....Kennedy Plummer  
**Russians**.....Jada Davis and Maya Vohra  
**Marzipan Duet**.....Alexa Belocura and Julianna Perez  
**Lambs**.....Kendall Dela Cruz, Audrey Eales, Hailey Jackson, Samantha Sigua, and Sienna Soulier  
**Arabian Soloist**.....Julia Rodgers  
**Rose**.....Victoria Montano Bethencourt  
**Flowers**.....Natalie Coffman, Astrid Estenson, Charlie Manuel, Gillian Mead, Naomi Mittman, Nanami Stewart, Gianna Zahner, and Olivia Zmak  
**Guardian Angels**.....Alexandra Ascencio, Aurelia Dempsey, Josephine Fernandez, Betty Ruchames, Penelope Sahagun, Naina Sapra, Aurora Welling, and Reem Francesca Zawaydeh

## Production Staff

**Artistic Director** ~ Teresa Taylor

**Associate Artistic Director** ~ Jacquelyn Zilka

**Stage Manager** ~ John Metellus

**Costume Mistress** ~ Beth Anne Sama

**Set Design** ~ Gary Brogan & Wes Muyco

**Choreographers & Faculty** ~ Alexis Risi, Teresa Taylor, Tina Zahner, and Jacquelyn Zilka

**Photographer** ~ Peter Lichty

**Videographer** ~ Louie Dela Cruz

**Assistant Stage Manager** ~ Brannen Zilka

**Costume Design** ~ Jeanette Hunter

### Cover Photography by Peter Lichty

Benicia Ballet Theatre extends its sincere thanks to Mr. Peter Lichty for his continued support of BBT. Photos of this production are available on [prouddad.smugmug.com](http://prouddad.smugmug.com). Proceeds from all orders are donated back to BBT.

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

Rosana Aguilar ~ Rachel Andrews ~ Brenda Belocura ~ Jorgelina Bethencourt ~ Brandon Brewster ~ Lauren Cambria ~ Kairi Clark  
Diane Coffman ~ Margareth Dela Cruz ~ Toni Dempsey ~ Alan Dravland ~ Christin Eales ~ Monica Estenson ~ Sam Hernandez Sr.  
Sam Hernandez Jr. ~ Kristine Jackson ~ Joy Manuel ~ Amandine Marekani ~ Reggie Mitchell ~ Natalie Mittman ~ Vanessa Perez  
Michael Rodgers ~ Bill Rodrigues ~ Virginia Sadl ~ Elizabeth Sahagun ~ Beth Anne Sama ~ Abrealynn Sigua ~ Stuart Smith ~ Cindy Soulier  
Kayoko Stewart ~ Jeannine Tanner ~ Jeremy Throne ~ Sarah Throne ~ Theresa Vohra ~ Hannah Welling ~ Ashley Worsham ~ Anny Wu  
Lisa Wymer ~ Steve Wymer ~ Tessa Zahner ~ Aidan Ziemer ~ Collin Ziemer ~ Comet Ziemer ~ Heather Ziemer

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### Benicia Ballet Theatre Board of Directors

Heather Ziemer, President; Susan Novak-Nizami, Vice President; Stuart Smith, Treasurer; Reggie Mitchell, Secretary;  
Kayoko Stewart, Member-at-Large; Josette Kohls, Member-at-Large

### Thank you to all of our Benicia Ballet Theatre Sponsors

**Diamond**~ Heather and Collin Ziemer

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**Members**~ Alexandra and Terrill Mead, Kayoko Stewart, Kristine Jackson, Monica Estenson, Susan Novak-Nizami,  
Heather and Collin Ziemer

Special thanks to the Benicia Ballet Theatre members for their support

To become a member of the Benicia Ballet Theatre, go to our website at [www.beniciaballet.com](http://www.beniciaballet.com) and got to the BBT store and pay the annual \$25.00 fee.

## *Letter from the Artistic Director*

*Welcome to Benicia Ballet Theatre's 31st performance of The Nutcracker! We are excited to share with you a live, full-length performance as well as an online Streaming Event and On Demand viewing. Together, we have come through a lot of challenges since our last live Nutcracker in 2019. With the collective efforts of our BBT community we strive to provide the North and East Bay Communities excellence in dance training and performance opportunities for our local artists. We are looking forward to continuing this work for years to come.*

*It takes a village to keep us moving into the future and to see a production of this size on to the stage. I am honored to be a part of continuing Benicia Ballet Theatre's tradition of offering The Nutcracker as the Artistic Director. I want to express my appreciation for the Board of Directors who have shown a dedicated commitment to BBT's mission. They have helped support and encourage local artists to develop their talents by providing inclusive performance opportunities within the Benicia, Vallejo, and North and East Bay communities. Our 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 BBT board has worked tirelessly this past year to ensure we are able to continue offering these opportunities through challenging times. A huge thank you for all that you have done and continue to do, and especially for your support of me in my first year as Artistic Director.*

*Our Nutcracker is rehearsed by a collaborative team of talented, dedicated and passionate teachers. I hope you enjoy the visions of Jacquelyn Zilka, Alexis Risi, Tina Zahner and myself, Teresa Taylor. Thank you all for helping our dancers shine.*

*A special thank you for all the dedicated parents and extended families of our dancers. Thank you for driving to and from classes and rehearsals, volunteering your talents, and for your patience as we work our way through usual times. This production would not have been possible without you.*

*I have to thank my husband for keeping the home fires burning while I spend long hours at the studio and for always encouraging me!*

*This year, I would like to acknowledge Jacquelyn Zilka, who is stepping away to pursue new challenges. Jacquelyn has spent a lifetime at Benicia Ballet Theatre. Without her the production will not be the same. Her creativity, positivity, dedication, grace, organization, hard work behind the scenes and onstage are immeasurable. Thank you, Jacquelyn. You will be missed!*

*Be sure to check our website [www.beniciaballet.com](http://www.beniciaballet.com) for information regarding our Spring Production, Summer Programming and ongoing Ballet, Contemporary, Conditioning and Tap classes.*

*I am proud to be a part of this organization. Please sit back, relax and enjoy the enchantment of our live performance.*

*Here's to a magical holiday season.*

*Teresa Taylor*