

The
Nutcracker
2024

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a Christmas scene. The background is a deep navy blue, framed by a thin gold border. At the top center, a large, bright red bow is tied. The scene is filled with various festive elements: a large, central nutcracker with a black beard and mustache, wearing a red and white striped tunic and a gold crown; a ballerina in a yellow and purple tutu, holding a red and white striped candy cane; a mouse in a red tunic and gold crown, holding a sword; and a small angel in a yellow dress. The scene is decorated with white snowflakes, gold stars, green holly leaves, red and white striped candy canes, and various wrapped gifts in different colors. A small Christmas tree is visible in the bottom left corner. The overall style is whimsical and celebratory.

The Nutcracker 2024

Music By

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Story Based On

E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 Tale

"The Nutcracker & The Mouse King"

Artistic Directors

Patricia Sloan Salvatore, Tara Micciche

Assistant Directors

Madelyn Gowney, Julie Schell

Production Assistants

Grace Aglialoro, Marcia Testino, Olivia Valente

Costumes

Amy Pierce, Patricia Sloan,
Shannon Araujo, Kara Eisenschink

Stage Managers

Kevin Salvatore, Miranda Salvatore, Talia Sallom

Technical Crew

Jeff Bettencourt, Brad Giroux, Joe Schramm

Graphic Art & Program Design

James Sloan, Timothy Sloan



SYNOPSIS

ACT I The Stahlbaums are entertaining family and friends at their annual Christmas Eve Party. The children are filled with excitement as they play and dance together. Clara's little brother, Fritz, teases her at every opportunity.

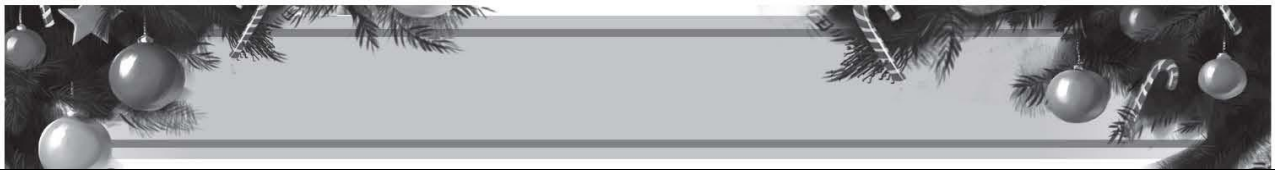
Herr Drosselmeyer arrives with his nephew and performs magic tricks for the children. He then entertains the guests with life-size mechanical dolls.

Drosselmeyer then presents Clara with a Nutcracker. Fritz is jealous of Clara and snatches the Nutcracker away from her. As they fight over it, the Nutcracker drops to the ground and breaks. Drosselmeyer bandages the doll and places it back in Clara's care.

The guests begin to leave and the Stahlbaum children go off to bed. Clara is worried about her Nutcracker and returns to the parlor, to find her doll and falls into a deep sleep on the sofa, her head full of dreams!

Suddenly the room fills with Little Mice! Toy Soldiers come to life along with the Nutcracker and a battle takes place against the mice and their Rat King. At the end of the battle, Clara faints and falls asleep. Magically the Nutcracker is transformed into a handsome Prince who takes Clara on an enchanting journey to the Land of Snow.

ACT II Clara and the Prince enter the Land of Sweets and are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. Clara tells the story of the battle between the Nutcracker and the Rat King. The Sugar Plum Fairy summons the subjects of her Kingdom to perform for their special guests. When the entertainment is concluded, Sugar Plum and Cavalier bid Clara and the Prince farewell. They sadly leave the Land of Sweets. Clara awakens from her dream on the sofa with her beloved Nutcracker by her side.



CAST SPOTLIGHT



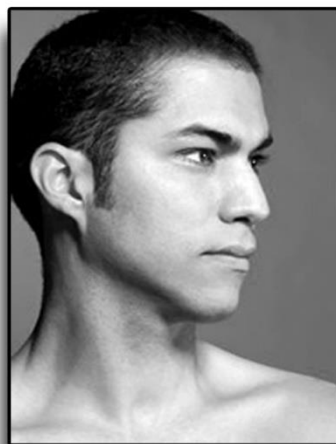
Madelyn Growney



Tullio Cata



Timothy Sloan



Yosbel Delgado



Micah Geyer

The Nutcracker Cast

Dec. 21 at 5:00 PM

ACT I: The Party

19th Century. Christmas Eve, Stahlbaums' Home

Dr. Stahlbaum	.....	Timothy Sloan
Frau Stahlbaum	.....	Brandy Sims
Clara Stahlbaum	.....	Payton Sims
Fritz Stahlbaum	.....	Reid Usher
Herr Drosselmeyer	.....	Micah Geyer
The Nephew & The Prince	.....	JT Vance
The Nanny	.....	Emily Cooney
Maids	.....	Kate Clune, Sierra McDonald, Andrea Mistichelli, Kendall Ross, Sophie Sharp
Party Guests	.....	Evan Ace, Grace Aglialoro, Christian Bruno, James Connor, Ron Curcio, Tommy DeGeorge, Peter Del Collo, Yosbel Delgado, Kara Eisenschink, Anne Lada, Isabella Morace, Erick Schell, Julie Schell, Brandy Sims, Sabrina Sims, Aaron Stranges, Hailey Sykes, Robert Sykes, Michaela Taylor, Presely Terch, Marcia Testino, Faith Veigel, Taylor Veigel
Little Cousins	.....	Guesly Pierre, Alexander Schanbacher, Jack Schell
Party Tots	.....	Adrianna Atene, Nora Friedberg, Madeline Lada, Stella Lee, Sophia Lyv, Michaela Sakoff, Margaret Usher
Party Boys	.....	Xavier Araujo, Ryan Schell
Party Children	.....	Gabrielle Carlson, Elena Christensen, Carmelina Colonna, Reese Dymond, Merry Ferla, Summer Ferla, Ariana King, Ariella Lada, Kayla Mistichelli, Lauren Pfaefflin, Madeline Phillips, Madelyn Reim, Quinn Ross, Savanna Sparti, Gabrianna Spitala, Siah Rose Squillace-Thomas, Adelyn Wright
Debutantes	.....	Maggie Auge, Hannah Barron, Emma Cappel, Aleeyah Carlson, Ciana Comerford, Sara Deacon, Aliya Duckworth, Lyla Fecht, Sophia Frame, Alaina Hemphill, Julia Joseph, Aspen Kingstad, Emma Kunsaitis, Kendall Lieberum, Emerson McCalley, Paloma Merinos, Lila Minichino, Kaytlynn Neal, Naelle Pierre, Elizabeth Pritchett, Amber Santucci, Morgan Sell, Ava Sharp
Porcelain Dolls	.....	Mercedes Araujo, Adrienne Cali
Harlequin Doll	.....	Addison Wiegand
Ballerina Doll	.....	Zhili Yates

Puppet Doll Abigail Williams

The Battle

The Nutcracker JT Vance

Rat King Peter Del Collo

Mice Gabrielle Carlson, Aliya Duckworth, Aspen Kingstad,
Paloma Merinos, Quinn Ross, Morgan Sell,
Gabrianna Spitale, Siah Rose Squillace-Thomas, Adelyn Wright

Soldier Captains Xavier Araujo, Ryan Schell

Soldiers Riley Baron, Cecilia Duncan, Francine Duncan,
Madeline Duncan, Ariella Lada, Madeline Lada,
Giovanna Miller, Sophia Musumeci, Guesly Pierre,
Maelie Pierre, Brooklyn Roberts, Alexander Schanbacher, Reid Usher

The Land of Snow

Snow Queen Malena Cali

Snow King Yosbel Delgado

Ice Princess Delaney Cantermen, Kate Clune,
Arianna Ferretta, Avery Kingstad, Makenzie Kunsaitis,
Andrea Mistichelli, Rachel Ragonese, Kendall Ross,
Sophie Sharp, Addison Wiegand, Abigail Williams

Snowflake Stella Ace, Charlotte Aglialoro, Mercedes Araujo,
Hannah Barron, Adrienne Cali, Jenna Callan,
Hannah Habashi, Madelyn Habashi, Nevaeh Klimczak,
Bella Lemauro, Sierra McDonald, Zoey Mckay,
Gianna O'Drain, Ava Patel, Isla Pratts,
Calia Puccio, Jacquelyn Ramos, Sloan Salvatore,
Sophia Santillo, Alyssa Scandura, Casey Sell,
Abbi Vare, Zhili Yates, Grace Zikowski, Kayla Zlatkin

15 Minute Intermission

*Visit our
“Nutcracker Shoppe”
in the lobby and find your
“Special Nutcracker Memory”*

ACT II - The Kingdom of Sweets

Prince	 JT Vance
Lead Fairies	 Grace Aglialoro, Emily Cooney, Kara Eisenschink, Paloma Merinos, Marcia Testino, Faith Veigel, Taylor Veigel, Adelyn Wright
Fairies	 Evangeline Czechura, Avery Dolson, Lucy Millard, Emma Miller
Angels	 Adrianna Atene, Nora Friedberg, Madeline Lada, Stella Lee, Sophia Lyv, Michaela Sakoff, Margaret Usher
Little Fairies	 Riley Baron, Cecilia Duncan, Francine Duncan, Madeline Duncan, Ariella Lada, Giovanna Miller, Sophia Musumeci, Maelie Pierre, Brooklyn Roberts
Cherubs	 Gloria Dowiak, Sylvia Dowiak, Mia McMurtrie, Alice Minetti, Shirley Minetti, Olivia Shay Piazza, Aubrey Rode, Abigail Schanbacher, Jack Schell, Lila Grace Squillace-Thomas, Harper Lee Van Valkenbur, Sophie Vu
Spanish King	 Yosbel Delgado
Spanish Queen Lead	 Andrea Mistichelli
Spanish Queen	 Isla Pratts, Rachel Ragonese, Casey Sell, Abbi Vare, Addison Wiegand, Zhili Yates
Spanish Princess	Hannah Habashi, Madelyn Habashi, Nevaeh Klimczak, Sierra McDonald, Gianna O'Drain, Calia Puccio
Arabian Kings	 Micah Geyer, Timothy Sloan
Arabian Queen	 Malena Cali
Arabian Princess Lead	 Delaney Cantermen, Kendall Ross
Arabian Princess	 Jenna Callan, Makenzie Kunsaitis, Bella Lemauro, Zoey Mckay, Alyssa Scandura, Sophie Sharp, Michaela Taylor, Grace Zikowski

ACT II - The Kingdom of Sweets

(continued)

Lead Chinese Boy	Tommy DeGeorge
Chinese Boy	Xavier Araujo, Ryan Schell, Reid Usher
Lead Chinese	Sara Deacon, Lyla Fecht
Fan Chinese	Maggie Auge, Ciana Comerford, Sophia Frame, Kendall Lieberum, Emerson McCalley, Kaytlynn Neal, Elizabeth Pritchett
Ribbon Chinese	Aspen Kingstad, Emma Kunsaitis, Paloma Merinos, Morgan Sell
Umbrella Chinese	Gabrielle Carlson, Reese Dymond, Quinn Ross, Gabrianna Spitale, Siah Rose Squillace-Thomas, Adelyn Wright
Center Lead Russian Tambourine	Stella Ace
Lead Russian Tambourine	Charlotte Aglialoro, Ava Patel, Jacquelyn Ramos, Sophia Santillo
Russian Tambourine	Hannah Barron, Emma Cappel, Aleeyah Carlson, Aliya Duckworth, Alaina Hemphill, Julia Joseph, Lila Minichino, Naelle Pierre, Amber Santucci, Ava Sharp
Lead Marzipan Couple	Peter Del Collo, Sloan Salvatore
Lead Marzipan	Kate Clune, Arianna Ferretta, Avery Kingstad, Kayla Zlatkin
Bon Bon Peppermint Pair	Mercedes Araujo, Adrienne Cali
Bon Bon Peppermint Candy	Elena Christensen Carmelina Colonna, Merry Ferla, Summer Ferla, Ariana King, Kayla Mistichelli, Lauren Pfaefflin, Madeline Phillips, Madelyn Reim, Savanna Sparti
Bon Bon	Riley Baron, Cecilia Duncan, Francine Duncan, Madeline Duncan, Ariella Lada, Giovanna Miller, Sophia Musumeci, Guesly Pierre, Maelie Pierre, Brooklyn Roberts, Alexander Schanbacher

Waltz of the Flowers

Dew Drop Abigail Williams

Flower Fairy Avery Kingstad, Andrea Mistichelli

Lead Flower Malena Cali, Jenna Callan, Makenzie Kunsaitis,
Zoey Mckay, Rachel Ragonese, Kendall Ross,
Michaela Taylor, Abbi Vare, Addison Wiegand,
Zhili Yates, Grace Zikowski

Corps de Flower Stella Ace, Charlotte Aglialoro,
Mercedes Araujo, Adrienne Cali, Ava Patel,
Isla Pratts, Jacquelyn Ramos, Sloan Salvatore,
Sophia Santillo, Alyssa Scandura, Casey Sell, Kayla Zlatkin

Garland Flower Maggie Auge, Hannah Barron,
Emma Cappel, Aleeyah Carlson, Ciana Comerford,
Sara Deacon, Aliya Duckworth, Lyla Fecht,
Sophia Frame, Hannah Habashi, Madelyn Habashi,
Alaina Hemphill, Julia Joseph, Aspen Kingstad,
Nevaeh Klimczak, Emma Kunsaitis, Bella Lemauro,
Kendall Lieberum, Emerson McCalley, Sierra McDonald,
Paloma Merinos, Lila Minichino, Kaytlynn Neal,
Gianna O'Drain, Naelle Pierre, Elizabeth Pritchett,
Calia Puccio, Amber Santucci, Morgan Sell, Ava Sharp

Hoop Flower Gabrielle Carlson, Quinn Ross,
Gabrianna Spitalo, Siah Rose Squillace-Thomas, Adelyn Wright

Grand Pas De Deux

Cavalier Tullio Cata

Sugar Plum Fairy Madelyn Gowney



Avery,

From a party tot to Clara, we have loved watching you grow up into the beautiful dancer you are today. Enjoy every second as Clara, you deserve it! You make us proud every day!

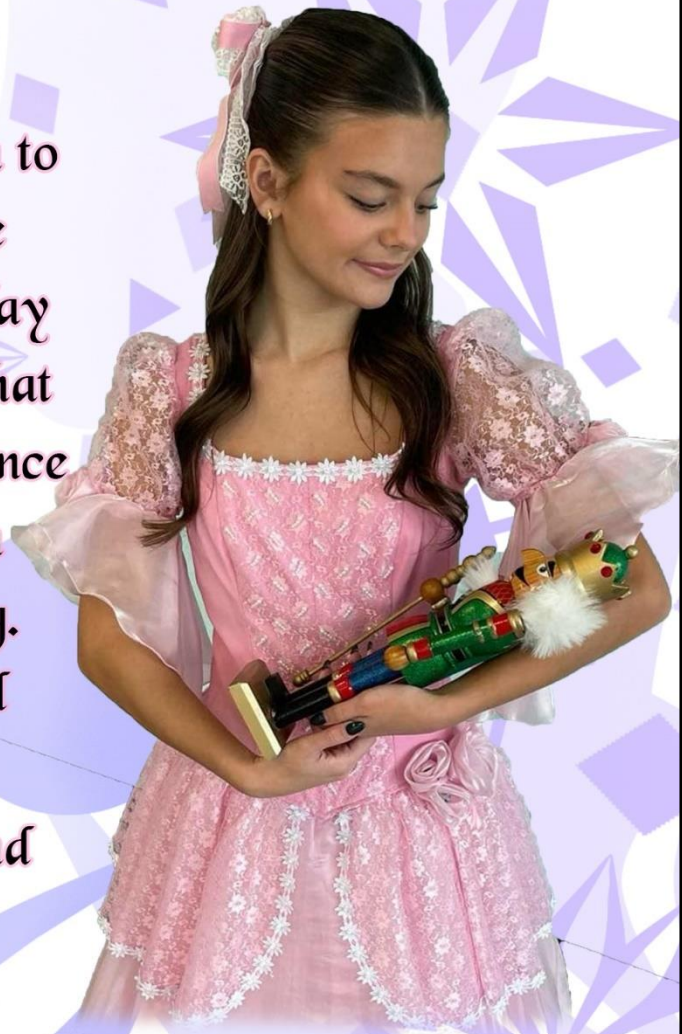
We love you
so much,
Dad, Mom,
Jackson,
Grayson &
Quinn



Avery Dolson performs the role of Clara on Friday Dec. 20 at 7PM.

To my beautiful,
Emma,

I have been lucky enough to
have been on this dance
journey with you since day
one, and it was evident that
you had a natural confidence
and effortless ability on
stage from the beginning.
I have absolutely loved
watching you dance
throughout the years, and
I cannot wait to see
you shine on stage in
The Nutcracker.



I will always be your #1
fan, and I am so incredibly
proud of the person you are.

I love you so much, baby!

Enjoy and cherish your
moment as Clara!

Love,
Mom



Emma Miller performs the role of Clara on Saturday Dec. 21 at 1PM.

Payton,

You've dreamt of being Clara
from from the moment you
became a party tot. And with
each year, and new role,
your love for this
Nutcracker grew deeper.
All your focus, determination,
and passion for this ballet has
helped you attain
this dream role.



As you dance through the
Land of Sweets, we hope you
embrace the details of every
moment so that the memories
of this magical evening will
always be have a special place
in your heart. We are so very
proud of you and wish you an
amazing performance.

Merde!

Love always, Mom,
Dad, and Sabrina

Payton Sims performs the role of Clara on Saturday Dec. 21 at 5PM.

Congratulations!
Evangeline,
We are so very
proud of you and
hope you enjoy
every moment of
your achievement.



We can't wait to see
you on stage as
Clara showcasing
what a beautiful
ballerina you
have become.

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Sienna,
Nonna & Pop Pop

Evangeline Czechura performs the role of Clara on Saturday Dec. 22 at 1PM.

Lucy,



It feels like just yesterday you were an Angel and Party Tot in your first Nutcracker. At eight years old, you could only dream of one day dancing the role of Clara. Over the years you have worked so hard, embracing every role you performed.

And now you are finally here, and we could not be more proud! As you take the stage this weekend, enjoy every moment, and remember that you will always be our angel.

Love Mom, Dad
and Sam



Lucy Millard performs the role of Clara on Saturday Dec. 22 at 5PM.

2025 Seniors



Delaney Cantermen



Kate Clune



Peter Del Collo



Arianna Ferretta



Avery Kingstad



Makenzie Kunsaitis

2025 Seniors



Sierra McDonald



Andrea Mistichelli



Kendall Ross



Sophie Sharp



Addison Wiegand



Abigail Williams

Nutcracker Fun Facts #1

We hope you enjoy reading the history of this ballet, one of the most widely performed in the world. So take a few minutes and share some of the interesting historical background of the Nutcracker with your young dancer and other family members.

Nutcracker Fun Facts & a "little" History

The Nutcracker Ballet is a fairy tale ballet in two acts or three tableaux.

This ballet is perhaps the most popular ballet in the world and is performed primarily around Christmas time.

Before a performance dancers in the ballet world wish each other "*merde*" instead of break a leg or good luck.



The Story of the Nutcracker

The story of the Nutcracker is based on a book written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816. The book is titled "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

In the story, young Marie Stahlbaum's (adapted as Clara) favorite Christmas toy, the Nutcracker, comes alive and whisks her away to a magical kingdom populated by dolls after defeating the evil Mouse King. This book was adapted by another author, Alexander Dumas.

The Director of the Russian Theater

In 1881, Ivan Vsevolozhsky was appointed Director of the Imperial Theatres. His patronage led to the creation of the two great Marius Petipa and Peter Tchaikovsky masterpieces: The Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake.

Because of these 2 great ballets, he planned to use the same choreographer (Petipa) and composer (Tchaikovsky) in his next production. So in 1890, planning began in his new ballet, "The Nutcracker". Although they were not immediately successful these three ballets have become considered by many to be the greatest ballets of all time show classical ballet at its best. They are definitely the most popular ballets in existence.



Nutcracker Fun Facts #1 (continued)



The Composer of the Nutcracker Music

The music of the Nutcracker Ballet was composed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1892. He was given a commission to write both a one-act opera and a ballet for the following season. The ballet was to be based on E.T.A. Hoffman's story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," a selection which Tchaikovsky disliked.

Nevertheless, he began work in early 1892 before departing on a successful tour of the United States, and completed the music later that summer, though he disparaged it as

"infinitely poorer than The Sleeping Beauty," a verdict with which subsequent ballet-goers have most emphatically and consistently disagreed.

ENCORE !! Tchaikovsky premiered the music for The Nutcracker Ballet Suite before the ballet was even produced. This eight-part concert version of the ballet music was a success. At least six times, the audience demanded immediate encores of specific music selections. Because of the Suite's instant success, the score was published even before the ballet premiered.

The Unforgettable Nutcracker Music

The music of Tchaikovsky has been featured in many movies and TV programs. We all quickly recognize the music whenever and wherever we hear it. It is the unforgettable sound of the celesta (pictured to the left), a unique instrument, that impresses us most as it causes the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy music to play again and again and remain in our heads.



Tchaikovsky had discovered the newly-invented instrument just before departing for the U.S., and was immediately captivated by its "divinely beautiful tone." He arranged to have one sent to Russia secretly, because he was "afraid Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov (2 other composers) may get hold of it and use the unusual effect before me."



The Original Choreographers

Marius Petipa, choreographer of the Nutcracker, was born in Marseilles, France. He was First ballet master to the Tzar of Russia. He is credited with ushering in the golden age of Classical Ballet. His ballets included Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, La Bayadere, Don Quixote and the Nutcracker.

However, Petipa fell ill during the creation of the Nutcracker. Lev Ivanov was his assistant and he took over the choreography. He was a

Russian dancer, teacher, choreographer, and ballet-master. Ivanov is credited for much of the choreography for The Nutcracker, which is still used in today's productions.

Nutcracker Fun Facts #1 (continued)

First Performance of the Nutcracker Ballet - 1892

The first showing of the Nutcracker ballet was in 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre of Russia shown in the photos below.



The performance was not very successful and received poor reviews from the critics. The black and white photo above is from the actual performance in 1892



New York City Ballet "The Nutcracker" 1954 & today

The first performance of The Nutcracker ballet in New York took place on Feb 2, 1954. The New York City Ballet performed the choreography of the famous George Balanchine. The photo on the right is from that 1954 production. The venue was the City Center shown in the photo on the left.



Today, the New York City Ballet performs the Nutcracker Ballet at the Lincoln Center shown in the photos below.



Nutcracker Fun Facts #2



The Nutcracker

By the "Numbers" &

By the "Geography"

This production of "The Nutcracker Ballet" requires the resources, efforts, and coordination of many people, companies & organizations. We want to present them to you through a set of interesting "numbers" and "geographic" locations.

"Nutcracker by the Numbers"

- **1** book, which is received by Fritz from Drosselmeyer in the Party scene, was a gift to Miss Tricia Sloan at her first Nutcracker performance in 1985. She has had that book autographed by all the dancers in "her" Nutcracker performances for many years.
- **1** mother & her 3 sons are performing together.
- **2** mothers and their daughters are performing together.
- **2** dancers in the Party Scene are wearing former "Clara Dresses".
- **2** years, this production was first held at Gloucester County College.
- **4** professional theatrical backdrops are created & shipped from Florida.
- **4** siblings from the same family are performing together.
- **4** years Rowan University was the home of "The Nutcracker"
- **7** is the age of the youngest performer.
- **8** States are the home to attendees (NJ, DE, MD, PA, MA, NC, TX, VA).
- **12** costumes were made by Civil War costumers in the state of Georgia.
- **12** professional ballet dancers will be performing.
- **14** years, the Scottish Rite Theater has been the home of this Nutcracker.
- **21** is the number of years TSDC has performed "The Nutcracker"
- **25** custom made costumes being worn come from the tiny country of Moldova.
- **30** feet is the height the Christmas tree will grow on stage during the battle scene.
- **39** years ago, Miss Tricia Sloan & Miss Brandy Sims performed together in their very first Nutcracker at Rowan University.
- **61** volunteers will work backstage, in the dressing rooms, in the theater ushering, in the box office & in the lobby.
- **72** TSDC dancers, including the 5 dancers this year, have performed the role of Clara over the 21 years of performances.
- **75** pounds of "snow" will be dropped during the winter snow scene.
- **104** TSDC dancers will be performing in this Nutcracker.
- **148** hometowns of the patrons attending the Nutcracker.
- **168** jewels are on the Snow Queen's costume.
- **280** linear feet of professional dance flooring will be installed on the stage.
- **370** pairs of pointe shoes will be worn by the dancers during the 4 performances.
- **495** costumes will be worn during each performance.
- **500+** hours of rehearsals in preparation for these 4 Nutcracker performances.
- **520+** nutcrackers & Xmas ornaments available for purchase.
- **1,021** is the seating capacity of the Scottish Rite Theater.
- **Unlimited** number of "Digital Flipbook" programs are provided *"FREE"* to the audience, which can be downloaded to personal devices.

Nutcracker Fun Facts #2 (continued)

"Nutteracker's geography"

- **Oldsmar, Florida** is the home of TheatreWorld, the company that creates and supplies the backdrops for this Nutcracker.
- **Jacksonville, Florida** is the headquarters of eHost, the web site hosting company where the "digital flipbook" program is being stored.
- **Moldova** is the tiny European country where 25 of our costumes were hand-made.
- **Georgia, USA** is the location of the Civil War costumers who made 12 of our Nutcracker costumes.
- **Wenonah, NJ** is the home of the Tricia Sloan Dance Center, At this location the Nutcracker production was rehearsed over 15 weeks and a total of 500+ hours.
- **Sewell, NJ** is the home StageKrew, the company that made all the props including the "growing" Christmas tree.
- **Marlton, NJ** is the location of Starlight Productions who will provide all the special lighting effects during the performances.
- **Long Beach, CA** is www.tix.com corporate location and where the ticket management computer resides that is used for all e-ticket processing.
- **US Battleships** are the origin of the flooring concept used by dance productions.

Benefis of Moldova

*25 costumes in this show
were designed and hand made
by Benefis a company in Moldova,
a tiny country between Romania and Ukraine in Europe.*



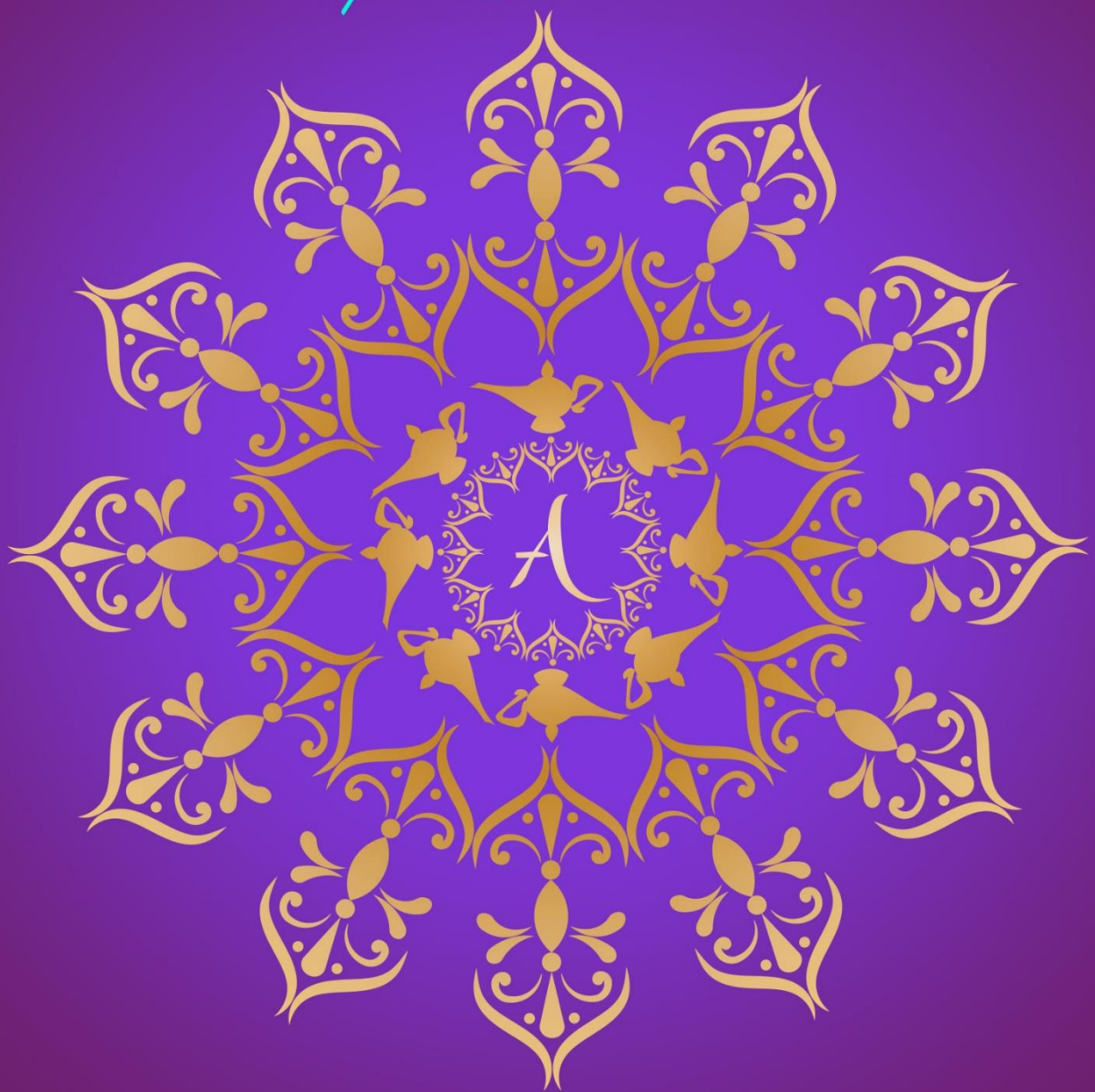
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST BALLET



FALL 2025

A TALE AS
OLD AS TIME

Aladdin the Ballet



May 4th, 2025

Tickets on Sale March 1st, 2025

get-ur-tix.com



Nutcracker 2024

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a *Digital Video Download* of the spectacular
Nutcracker performances.

We are happy to announce **VIP VIDEO**
will be capturing all 5 performances this year.
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Mondays @ 7:30 - 9pm



Taught by former
Pennsylvania Ballet
Soloist
Valerie Amiss

All levels welcome!



*Thank you for attending
our performance of
The Nutcracker Ballet*



*All of us at the
Trícia Sloan Dance Center
wish you and your family a
**Very Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!***