

Studio West Dance Theatre

THE NUTCRACKER



THANKSGIVING

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NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025

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2025-2026 SEASON



THE NUTCRACKER

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025

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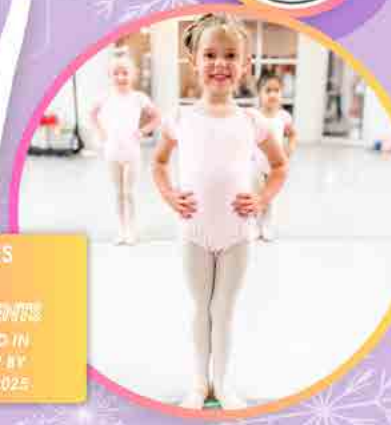
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THE NUTCRACKER

DIRECTORS' NOTE

Welcome to Studio West Dance Theatre's production of The Nutcracker! We are so delighted to share this timeless holiday tradition with you! Each year, this beloved ballet brings together dancers, families, and our community to celebrate the joy of storytelling through movement, music, and imagination.

In a world where so much of our daily experience has shifted to screens, the performing arts remind us of the irreplaceable power of our human connection. There is something profoundly special about gathering in a theater; sharing laughter, surprise, and applause with those around us. Live performance connects us not only to the dancers on stage but also to one another.

If you like what you see today mark your calendars for our playful spring production of Coppélia! Join us right here at the Washington Center April 30-May 2, 2026, for this whimsical, heartwarming ballet that's perfect for all ages.

Thank you for supporting Studio West, the performing arts and for being part of our dance community. Your presence makes all the difference for our young artists and keeps the spirit of The Nutcracker alive for generations to come.

With Gratitude,
Stephanie Wood-Ennett and Mary Cecelia Piper
Co-Directors



Clara and Nutcracker rehearsal, 2025





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STORY OF THE NUTCRACKER

The Party Scene It is Christmas Eve in the 1890's at the Stahlbaum house - a large and grand house with the most beautiful tree imaginable. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party, welcoming the arrival of their family and friends. The children, Clara and Fritz, are dancing and playing as they welcome their friends, too.

The party grows festive with music and dance as their godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, arrives. He is a skilled clock and toy maker and always full of surprises. Herr Drosselmeyer draws everyone's attention as he presents three life-size dolls and a bear. They are the delight of the party, each taking a turn to dance.

The children begin to open gifts when Herr Drosselmeyer presents his gift to Clara, a beautiful Nutcracker. Fritz is jealous and, having a bit more spunk than a boy should have, grabs the Nutcracker from Clara and promptly breaks it. Clara is heartbroken, looking on as Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker. As the evening grows late, the guests depart and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to her family's living room to check on him, falling asleep with him in her arms.

The Fight Scene As the clock strikes midnight strange things begin to happen. Clara becomes nervous as her lovely living room shifts and changes. The room fills with an army of rats, led by the fierce Rat King. As the Nutcracker awakens, he leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the rats. The Rat King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one.

The Nutcracker and his army can go on no longer and are captured by the rats and their King. Clara makes a final daring charge and distracts the Rat King, giving the Nutcracker the opportunity to deliver a fatal blow. The Rat King drops to the floor and the giant rats mourn as they carry off their leader's lifeless body.

The Land of Snow The Nutcracker turns into a Prince and dances a beautiful Pas de Deux with Clara as they journey to the Land of Snow. It is there they are enchanted by a winter wonderland and a whirlwind of dancing snowflakes.

The Land of Sweets The Prince escorts Clara to the Land of Sweets where they are welcomed into the palace and greeted by the kingdom's residents. They each give Clara a gift, a toy or delectable treat, precious items which Clara knows would be coveted by all of her friends and neighbors: Spanish chocolate, Arabian coffee, Chinese tea, Russian nesting dolls, French Mirliton cakes, a gingerbread house, and flowers.

Clara and the Prince share their tale of the daring battle with the army of rats and the Sugar Plum Fairy rewards them with a celebration of dances. As a finale, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier dance a intricate Pas de Deux.

The Dream Ends All too soon Clara awakes from her dream world and is comforted by the sight of her mother. With the Nutcracker in her arms, she holds a magical memory of the most wonderful Christmas that will dance in her heart forever.



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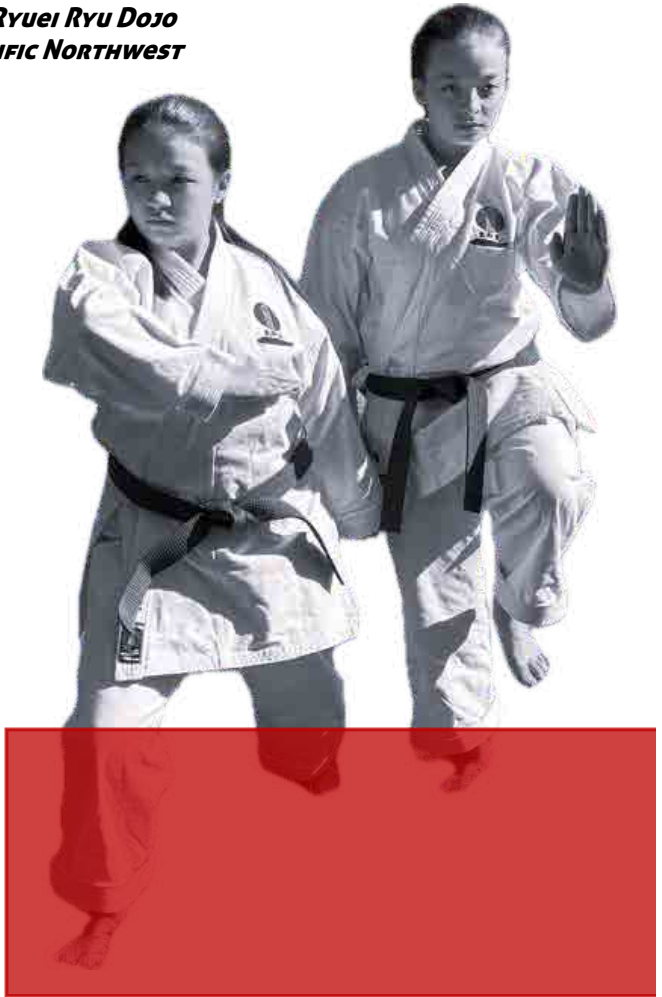
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Mother Ginger rehearsal, 2025

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Congratulations to the talented
dancers of Studio West Dance Theatre

2025 Nutcracker performance!



We're cheering you on as you bring this
holiday classic to life—with grace, joy, and
sparkle of Christmas magic.

Wishing you all a “pawsitively” magical show!



NUTCRACKER PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTORS

Mary Cecelia Piper, Stephanie Wood-Ennett

CHOREOGRAPHERS & REHEARSAL COACHES

Erin Pattillo, Elizabeth Piper, Marianna Ramsour, Monica Sieling,
Stephanie Wood-Ennett, Aaron Zeigler, Rachel Zeigler

RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Scott Leathers

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zac Andersen

PRODUCTION, STAGE & STUDIO MANAGER

Rachel Zeigler

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Eric Russell

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Satoshi Shimoji

COSTUME DIRECTOR

Trish Hall

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

Michelle Rubbert

COSTUME SEAMSTRESSES & ASSISTANTS

Rhonda Beardsley, Jeri Globe, Hannah Hall, Cookie Harn

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Majida Manista

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Pam Abbott

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Hannah Duong

STUDIO WEST STAGE CREW

Joe Cushman, Autumn George, Eric Russell, Satoshi Shimoji

WASHINGTON CENTER PRODUCTION CREW

Aeryk Bjork, Taylor Dallman, Chris Gaston, Ken Glidden,
Kristen Johnston, JR Taylor, Owen Yates

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Melissa Miller, Stephanie Wood-Ennett



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SATURDAY **JAN 24 7:00PM**



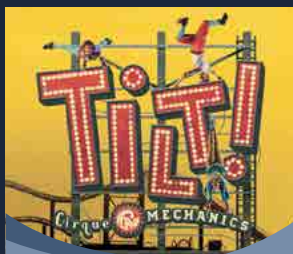
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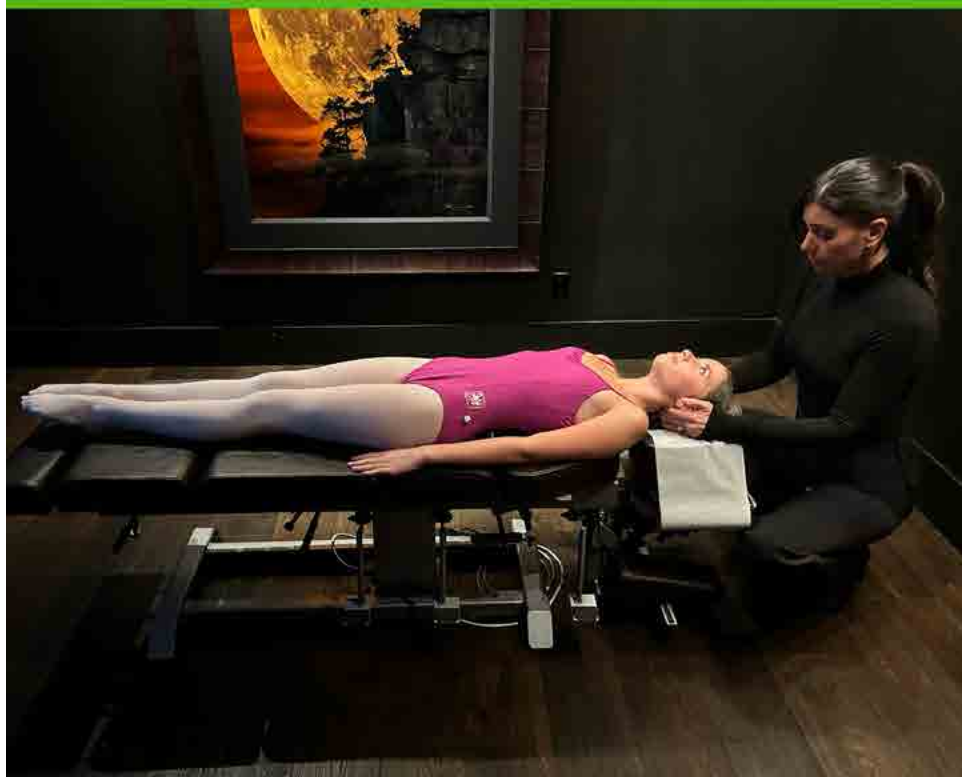
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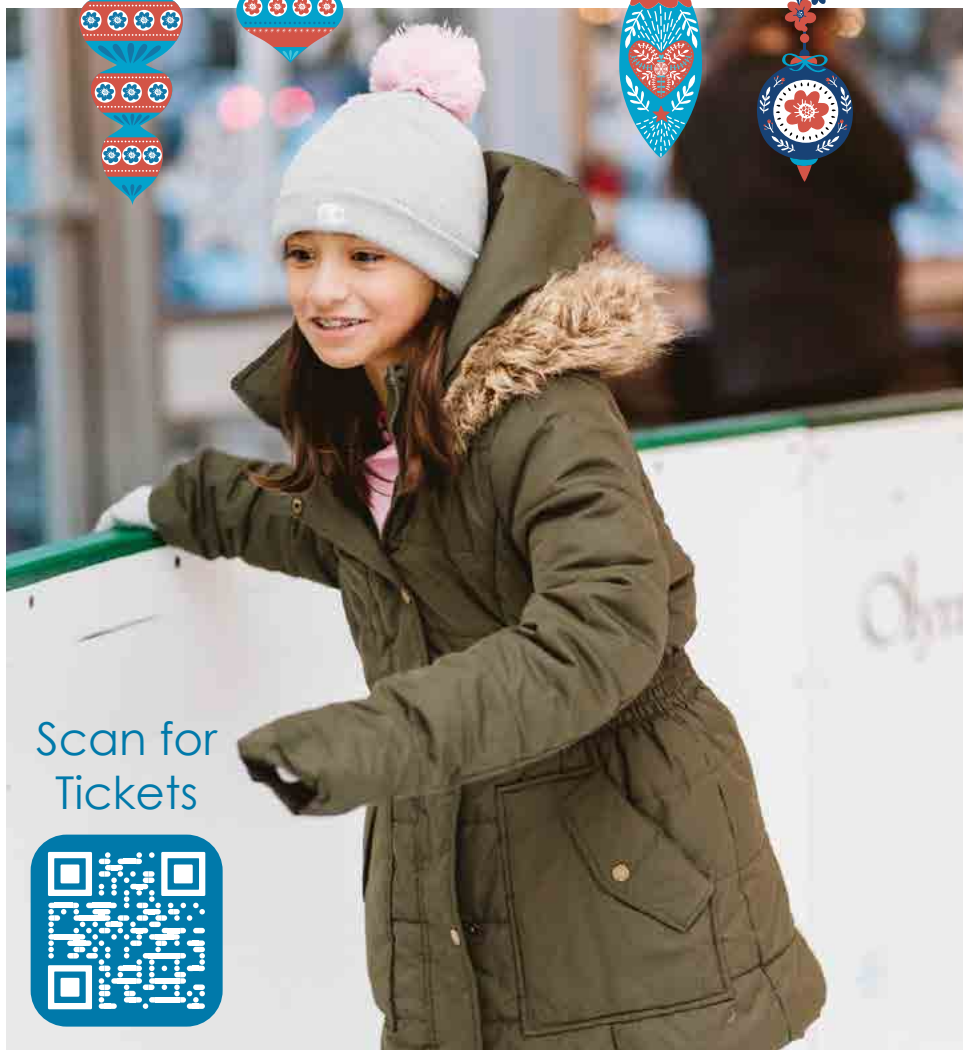
Dr. Meisha Dandrea, D.C.



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THE NUTCRACKER

CAST KEY

❁ - 11/28 at 2pm, 11/29 at 7pm, 11/30 at 1pm

❁ - 11/28 at 7pm, 11/29 at 2pm, 11/30 at 5pm

ACT ONE

HERR DROSSELMAYER

❁❁ Aaron Zeigler

MINI-DROSSELMYERS

❁ Adia Donato, Nora Holmkvist, Jane Lewis, Clara Nelson, Eva Peterson, Madison Raney

❁ Olivia Joyce, Jane Kessler, Sylvia King, Rayne Lemcke, Brayden Shoemaker, Coralee Simon

WHITE MICE

❁ Leighton Jackson, Piper Saeger

❁ Nellie Boyer, Mia Ojeda

STREET VENDOR

❁ Ana Mielke

❁ Rose Chamberlain

CLARA STAHLBAUM

❁ Kate Levin

❁ Nora Saylor-Olson

FRITZ STAHLBAUM

❁ Johnaven (J.) Solise

❁ Damien Smith

FRAU STAHLBAUM

❁❁ Emily McMason

HERR STAHLBAUM

❁❁ Joe de Jesus

GRANDMOTHER STAHLBAUM

❁ Erin Pattillo

❁ Cathy Fankhauser

GRANDFATHER STAHLBAUM

❁ Pat Pattillo

❁ Chuck Fankhauser

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and mom to dancers
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GOVERNESS

❁ Sydney LaDoux

❁ Ana Mielke

MAID

❁ River Cohn

❁ Audrey Esslinger-Dotson

LEAD PARTY GIRLS

❁ Emerald Ferrara, Stella West

❁ Addison Cady, Marilyn Selin

TEEN PARTY GIRLS

❁ Emily Haley-Pierce, Kyleigh Young

❁ Grace McCray, Brooklyn Sinthavong

PARTY GIRLS

❁ Evelyn Atchison, Georgia Cushman, Mia Giron, Hanah Henry, Eliza Hobby, Elsa Houston, Carolina Kaipov, Audrey Moss, Melody Watkins

❁ Elena Cazier, Maja Himmel, Quincy Hsu-Schmitt, Eleanor McBride, Penelope McNeal, Ashlynn Pearson, Mina Rajagopal, Cecelia Stone, Vivian Williams

TEEN PARTY BOYS

❁ Aiden Murphy

❁ Andrew Kissel

PARTY BOYS

❁ Callum Black, Daniel Majors-McDowell, Brayden Shoemaker, Damien Smith, James Zeigler

❁ Elliott Bond, Rowdy Kemp, Wesley King, Daniel Majors-McDowell, Johnaven (J.) Solise

YOUNG PARTY AUNT

❁ Cassie Majors-McDowell

❁ Kyleigh Price

PARTY PARENTS - LADIES

❁❁ Michele Deisering, Erika Ferrara, Lynn Gear, Michelle Shoemaker

❁ Sawyer Land, Karyne McCray

❁ Max Crabapple, Sarah Haley

PARTY PARENTS - GENTLEMEN

❁❁ Kurt Hardin, Tim Shoemaker, Guy Tasa

❁ Ryan Jackson, Clayton Musgrove

❁ Dean Crabapple, Rey Cordero

DOG

❁❁ Jeff Ennett

HARLEQUIN DOLL

❁ Nai'a Wright

❁ Clare Lanese

MINI HARLEQUIN DOLL

❁ Avery Church

❁ Emma Cushing

SOLDIER DOLLS

❁ Owen Church, Astoria Eberly

❁ Owen Church, Aspen Butler

BEAR

❁ Addison Cady

❁ Astoria Eberly



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NUTCRACKER

❄️❄️ Waylen Stevens

RAT KING

❄️❄️ Jeff Ennett

RATS

❄️❄️ Madeline Burnham, Michael Burnham, Rachel Grimmer, Erica Kinsel, Jeremiah Szurszewski, Guy Tasa

MUSICAL SOLDIERS

❄️ Emma Davis, Mittie Grimmer, Eunbi Lee, Quinn Peterson

❄️ London Daley, Felicity King, Elliott Kinsel, Elaina Tevis

INFANTRY

❄️ Mirabelle Ackermann, Elliott Bond, Paige Chapin-Stibbe, Olivia Kennedy-Peck, Olivia Lawhorne, Kai Linton, Samarra Shaw, Alison Williams

❄️ Callum Black, Robin Burnham, Ella Carter, Adeline Daley, Natalie Kieft, Lydia Harrison, Allie Isaacson, James Zeigler

CANNONEERS

❄️ Andrew Kissel, Lucy Sheppard

❄️ Aiden Murphy, Rowan Holden

SNOW QUEEN

❄️ Locy Hamblet

❄️ Kabella Graves

SNOW

❄️ Kate Abbott, Campbell Baldwin, Rosalie Cushman, Kabella Graves, Clare Lanese, Kate Lim, Nora Saylors-Olson, Lexi Shelley

❄️ Nico Anderson, Locy Hamblet, Willow Hood, Kate Levin, Macy Manista, Teagan Sirotak, Sophia Solano, Nai'a Wright

JUNIOR SNOW

❄️ Ada Bergvall, Rose Chamberlain, Sabrina Hardin, Grace McCray, Charlotte Moss, Malia Shoemaker

❄️ River Cohn, Cruz Dandrea, Vivienne Ennett, Emily Haley-Pierce, Lulu Valiant, Kyleigh Young

[INTERMISSION • 20 MINUTES](#)

[ACT TWO](#)

SUGAR PLUM

❄️ Emma Ehrlander

❄️ Kate Abbott

CAVALIER

❄️❄️ Gibson Baggett

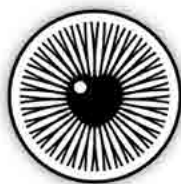
GUARDIAN ANGEL

❄️ Aahana Lohan

❄️ Clare Lanese



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DIVINITY

- ✿ Aspen Butler, Cruz Dandrea, Abigail Manista, Brooklyn Sinthavong
- ❄ Avery Church, Claire Daugherty, Quinn LaDoux, Charlotte Moss

PETIT FOURS

- ✿ Emma Benson, Teagan Sirotak, Lexi Shelley, Sophia Solano
- ❄ Kate Lim, Abigail Manista, Aahana Lohan, Stella West

SPANISH CHOCOLATE LEADS

- ✿ Kate Abbott, Kate Lim
- ❄ Emma Ehrlander, Sophia Solano

SPANISH CHOCOLATE

- ✿ Rayne Berger-Perin, Elena Cazier, Vivienne Ennett, Eden George, Abigail Mattheis
Brooklyn McKinley
- ❄ Agnes Crabapple, Rilee Neils, Rita Niles, Erica Shimoji, Malia Shoemaker,
Josie Zurcher

ARABIAN COFFEE LEADS

- ✿ Ilsa Beardsley, Jeremiah Szurszewski
- ❄ Kabella Graves, Jeremiah Szurszewski

ARABIAN COFFEE

- ✿ Rose Chamberlain, Rilee Neils, Jensen Porter, Lulu Valiant
- ❄ Emma Benson, Abigail Mattheis, Sabrina Hardin, Sydney LaDoux

CHINESE TEA LEADS

- ✿ Macy Manista, Campbell Baldwin
- ❄ Teagan Sirotak, Lexi Shelley

CHINESE TEA LION HEAD

- ✿ Quinn LaDoux
- ❄ Aspen Butler

CHINESE TEA LION

- ✿ Robin Burnham, Ella Carter, Emma Davis, Lydia Harrison, Rowan Holden, Allie
Isaacson, Elliott Kinsel, Elaina Tevis
- ❄ Gemma Clark, Mittie Grimmer, Olivia Lawhorne, Natalia Oberc, Quinn Peterson,
Lucy Sheppard, Annora Stewart, Alison Williams

CHINESE TEA LION TRAINER (AS FRITZ)

- ✿ Johnavan (J.) Solise
- ❄ Damien Smith

FRENCH MIRLITONS LEAD

- ✿ Nico Anderson
- ❄ Ilsa Beardsley

FRENCH MIRLITONS DEMI-SOLOISTS

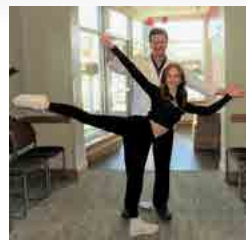
- ✿ Audrey Esslinger-Dotson, Willow Hood
- ❄ Campbell Baldwin, Rosalie Cushman

LITTLE LAMBS

- ✿ Sophie Ertmann, Freya Olson, Claire McDonald, Georgia Paull, Alice Selin,
January Clark
- ❄ SarahFaith Coburn, Freya Olson, Grace Mielke, Elizabeth Miller, Sophie Pennington,
Mina Rajagopal

Congratulations to the amazing cast and crew of SWDT's **2025 The Nutcracker!**

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**Undying appreciation to
SWDT, Directors, Dancers,
and fellow volunteers for
this year's camaraderie in
rehearsals and performances!
Very joyfully celebrating
another onstage party!**

Ps. Hon, did we invite the dog?



Retro photo shout-out c.2008

RUSSIAN TREPAK LEAD

❄️ Nai'a Wright

❄️ Nico Anderson

RUSSIAN TREPAK DEMI-SOLOISTS

❄️ Emma Cushing, Molly McMurdie

❄️ Audrey Esslinger-Dotson, Ana Mielke

RUSSIAN TREPAK

❄️ Scarlett Berner, Maureen Madden, Eunbi Lee, Addie Murphy, Dahlia Ramsey-Kroll, Peyton Ramsfield

❄️ Brooklyn McKinley, Sara Shimoji, Saoirse Shannon, Samarra Shaw, Amelia Smith, Hanna Sondossi

MOTHER GINGER

❄️❄️ Satoshi Shimoji

MOTHER GINGER'S CHILDREN

❄️ Olivia Joyce, Josephine Furth, Avery Lankford, Nora Madden, Delilah Myers, Madeleine Myrick, Nora Olson, Aria Suttan

❄️ Avee Kemp, Akira Kaminski-Hurtado, Stella Kazanjian, Charlotte Harbour, Tamsin Meacham, Ava Matthews, Valerie Marston, Gwyneth Stroop

DEW DROP

❄️ Nora Saylor-Olson

❄️ Locy Hamblet

FLOWER DEMI-SOLOISTS

❄️ Kabella Graves, Macy Manista

❄️ Nico Anderson, Kate Lim

FLOWERS

❄️ Locy Hamblet, Nai'a Wright, Clare Lanese, Aahana Lohan, Marilyn Selin, Sophia Solano

❄️ Ada Bergvall, Rosalie Cushman, Astoria Eberly, Emma Ehrlander, Willow Hood, Ilsa Beardsley

JUNIOR FLOWERS

❄️ River Cohn, Claire Daugherty, Quinn LaDoux, Sydney LaDoux

❄️ Addison Cady, Emerald Ferrara, Eden George, Jensen Porter



THANK YOU

We want to thank our many dedicated Studio West volunteers and staff. Your help makes this production possible! A big thank you to Cassi Frerich for her continued support with our Nutcracker boutique, Harbor Foods for providing the trucks and drivers to get our large set, props, and costumes to and from the theatre; PNW Ruhuou Kan Dojo for making sure our dancers arrive safely to their cars after rehearsals and shows this week; and to the Washington Center staff for their support and dedication to the arts in our community.



Congratulations

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GUEST ARTISTS

SCOTT LEATHERS

RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER & PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Scott Leathers is the Resident Lighting Designer for Nashville Children's Theatre (since Sep. 2003), Studio West Dance Theatre (Mainstage, since 2009), and has previously served as R.L.D. for Nashville Ballet ('87-'22), New Dialect (Contemporary Dance, 2014-2019), Chattanooga Symphony and Opera ('02-'07, & 2011-2020), Kentucky Repertory Theatre ('05-'08), Ryman Auditorium's Musical Theatre Series ('99-'01), and Ballet TN ('97-'01). He periodically serves as interim Lighting Director for the Ryman Auditorium. After his long tenure at Nashville Ballet from 1987-2022 he decided it was time to step away and explore new

opportunities. He was immediately named Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer at Nashville Children's Theatre, and happily became a part of Emma Sendall's team for *An Ambivalent Woman of 37* and subsequently Dominic Moore Dunson's team for *The Remember Balloons* which has a national tour planned for the 25-26 season.

Mr. Leathers has designed lighting for theatre, opera, ballet, and modern dance since 1981 to critical acclaim. Many of his designs have been for original works. Mr. Leathers design experience includes work with the following performing arts organizations: the Kennedy Center (Concert Hall, Opera House & Family Theater), StudioTENN, Opera Omaha, Nashville Opera, TN Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, American Negro Playwrights Theatre, Theatre Craft, Stage One, Amun Ra Theatre, Musical Theatre Louisville, Karen Steele Dance Quintet, Ballet Omaha, Ballet Austin, Cumberland County Playhouse, Dollywood, and internationally with Tanz Ensemble Cathy Sharp (TECS-Switzerland) and Ballet Manila (Philippines). In Dec. 2015 he designed lighting for Ben Fold's Piano Concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He has taught Lighting Design at the college level as well as leading over 30 workshops. He has also designed scenery for many productions.

Mr. Leathers graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a BFA in technical theatre and is a member of United Scenic Artists 829 in the Lighting and Scenic Categories.

ZAC ANDERSEN

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zac has been lighting shows around the Puget Sound for many years, and is delighted to return for his tenth year of Studio West Dance Theatre's Nutcracker! In addition to Nutcracker, Zac has joined Studio West for shows including Alice in Wonderland, Giselle, Cinderella and Track City. When not lighting dance, Zac can often be found pointing bright lights at people who are trying to sing at the Village Theatre and around Seattle.





Happy
Holidays

& CONGRATULATIONS

Studio West

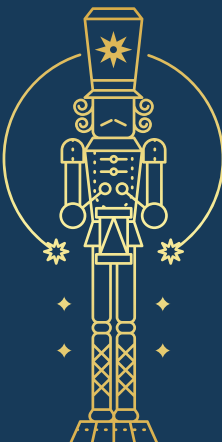
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AARON ZEIGLER

GUEST PERFORMER



Aaron Zeigler started performing at an early age for his classmates and teachers. This led to many performances at a more esteemed venue, the principal’s office. Finally, at Central Washington University, he decided to try his skills on a bigger stage and joined the Theatre Arts Department. At Central, he discovered his true love for performance, his true love (Rachel), and received his BA in Education and Theatre in 1998. Since then, Aaron has had the opportunity to perform in such shows as, Wizard of Oz, My Fair Lady, Beauty and the Beast, A Funny

Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Once Upon a Mattress, Peter Pan, Cinderella, Coppelia, Alice in Wonderland and The Nutcracker.

Some of his favorite roles have included The Cowardly Lion (Wizard of Oz), Dr. Coppelius (Coppelia), Ugly Stepsister (Cinderella), Herr Drosselmeyer (The Nutcracker) and Captain Hook (Peter Pan).

When not on stage he spends his time performing for his son James, and as a videographer/editor.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is important to take a moment to acknowledge that the Washington Center and downtown Olympia sits on the traditional lands of the Steh-Chass band of the Squaxin Island Tribe. We also recognize the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes, and the Nisqually People of this region. As an arts organization, we encourage you to look around our community at the innumerable contributions that native artists have made, whose histories and cultures are woven into the fabric of our communities and our collective identities.



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