

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence | serving Santa Cruz County for forty years
Diane Cypher, Artistic Director | Pamela Martin, Music Director | Sandy Nelson, Academy Registrar | Wendy Butler, SCBT Administrator

THIS SEASON'S SENIOR COMPANY DANCERS MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE BALLET WORLD

This Season's Company dancers have received a multitude of offers and awards for their hard work. The offers and acceptances are too many to list here, so instead, following are the final choices that these lovely dancers have made. There will be more opportunities offered at The Ballet Alliance Festival, so this is definitely not a complete/final list.

Ruby has decided to accept a full scholarship to study at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School Summer Program.

Emily will attend the Oregon Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive program.

Jada will study at Boston Ballet School this summer.

Lauren has accepted a Trainee position with Ballet Met, based in Columbus Ohio; her contract begins in June and runs for twelve months.

Juliette has signed a professional contract to dance with Utah Metropolitan Ballet next season; her summer will be spent preparing to leave home upon high school graduation.

Maddie will study at Boston Ballet School this summer.

Additionally, Petite Company dancer **Gemma** has been accepted into the National Ballet of Canada School in Toronto.

Read more about Juliette and Lauren on page 4.



*The talented dancers of the SCBT Senior Company,
photographed by James Schwartz.*



Spring Auction Event

Thursday, April 11

5:30-8:30 pm

Inversion Winery, Scotts Valley



Come join us in celebration of Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre at Inversion Winery! Enjoy an appearance by the "Ballet de Seuss" Queen Bee and Baby Bees, light appetizers, wine and soft drinks. Bid on your favorite items in support of our non-profit organization.

PLEASE NOTE: The Studio will be CLOSED this day. No Classes. Come join us and support the culmination of our 40th season!

Academy and SCBT Calendar

The Studio is **OPEN** the entire months of March and April, exceptions noted below

Fri/Sat, Mar 29/30 No Classes ~ Studio Closed

Sun, March 31 Easter Sunday

Thurs, April 11 Spring Auction Event 5:30-8:30 pm
Studio Closed - No Classes

April 13-14 Final In Concert rehearsals at The Studio Tannery World Dance & Cultural Center will be here ~ Special Classes for SCBT Senior and Petite Companies!

Friday, April 19 Dress/Technical Rehearsal at the Crocker

April 20-21 In Concert Performances

Friday, April 26 Senior Company SPECTRA Performance

Sat, April 27 SCBT participates in Cabrillo College Dance Festival

Sat, May 4 Last SCBT rehearsal before Festival

Mon, May 6 TBA Festival participants travel to Spokane

May 6-11 Studio Closed ~ No Classes

Sat, May 18 Student Showcase (see next page)

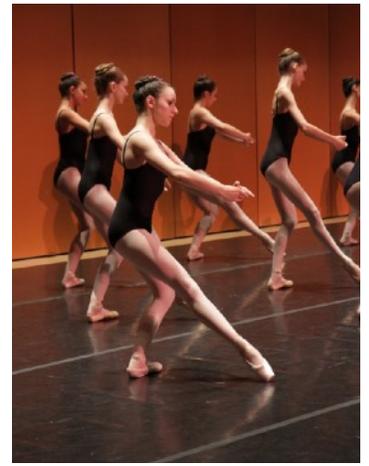
Academy Student Demonstration and SCBT Emerging Choreography Showcase Saturday, May 18

Our annual Student Showcase is coming up in May, and will be presented at the Monte Vista Performing Arts Center in Watsonville (same location as last year). Each class will show what they have mastered this year, and our demonstration features the absence of costumes, so as not to distract from the progress made.

All students enrolled at The Studio who have solid attendance are invited to participate in the Student Demonstration, from Pre-Ballet through our advanced levels. There are no additional fees for this experience. No costumes to buy, no participation fees. This experience is a huge part of their continued training as dancers. They learn how to prepare for performance, how to behave backstage and on the stage, and how to listen to their music and dance together. Our teachers do not perform with them — this is not about us, it is about the students and their progress.

Dancers will be Called to the Theater early for spacing rehearsals. The showcase will begin at 4 pm. Tickets can be purchased in the office for \$20 each. Bring the entire family to cheer on our students and their progress made over a year of hard work.

As in previous years, we will have a **taco truck** on hand following the show for families to enjoy on the picnic area. And, as always, our Technical Director Jeffrey Vance needs help installing and removing the marley floor, which is so important for the safety of our dancers. A sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway. Thank you for your support!



Above, from the Student Demonstration archives. Pictured here include Emma Williams (now an architect in Seattle), Flora Chatwin (finishing her BFA in Dance at UC Irvine), Lauren Hood (story on page 4), and Lily Swan (current SCBT Board Member). Dance can take you anywhere!

SMALL PROPS AND COSTUME ITEMS NEEDED FOR BALLET DE SEUSS

We are in need of the following items for our upcoming spring performances. Might you have any of these and can we borrow them?

- mini tricycle (toddler size)
- doctor lab coat
- stethoscope
- old-fashioned nurse hat
- classic white nurse dress



- gardener outfit — what says “gardener” to you? overalls? big-brimmed hat?
- “lawman” outfit (police? bounty hunter?)
- big camera (like old-style paparazzi)

SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE SAYS GOODBYE TO A DEAR FRIEND

The late **Tom Bonura** was a local computer scientist who performed with Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre many times over the years as a character artist. Our artistic director Diane Cypher first met him in rehearsals for “The Nutcracker Suite,” which was inherited from retiring director Jean Dunphy. Tom played the character of Uncle Drosselmeyer. As luck would have it, his daughter Caasi was cast as Clara that very first year of the Cypher/Kelley directorship in 1998. Tom continued to perform that same role for several years as the production was fleshed out to the full-length ballet.

Tom performed in Philip Jerry’s moving adaptation of “Our Town” each time SCBT presented it over the years, playing both the characters of Mr. Webb and Dr. Gibbs. He has been married on stage to Sara Wilbourne, Mary Winslow and Kelly Caborn, the latter he also flirted with in “The Nutcracker” as the Maid, until her husband Rod Caborn took over the Uncle Drosselmeyer role.



When SCBT produced the movie “Clara’s Dream” during the Covid pandemic, Tom was on hand to lend his acting acumen once again to our telling of the nutcracker story. He was generous with his time, energy and, boy, did he have a wicked sense of humor! He will be missed. Tom Bonura is survived by his

loving wife Lindsey Roscoe (former SCBT board member), his daughters Caitlin and Caasi (both former SCBT Company dancers), their husbands Rick and Jeremy, and grandchildren Hazel, Violet, Owen and Arlo. Rest in peace, dear friend. You will live and dance in our hearts forever.



“The Tom,” above, in Clara’s Dream. At left with Ryan Gonzalez and Kelly Caborn in the most recent production of “Our Town.”

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre In Concert

featuring Debra Pearse Rogo's

Ballet de Seuss

Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21

Performance at 2 pm each day

Crocker Theater at Cabrillo College

Purchase tickets online [HERE](#)

A mixed-repertory program including a premiere by Jeffrey Gribler created especially for the talents of this season's Senior Company dancers. Including appearances by the Petite Company dancers, and special guests **Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center** dancers. This program has something for everyone!



Photo of "La Volonta" by Nicole Formenti

Congratulations to this season's Petite Company dancers!



Petite Company dancers after a successful audition with Senior Company assistants Maddie and Jada. We can't wait to see you perform "Ballet de Seuss" In Concert at the Crocker Theater this April!

THE BALLET ALLIANCE EVALUATION PROCESS CULMINATES IN THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior Company had an educational Evaluation with Festival Artistic Director Donald Dadey on Presidents' Day. Mr. Dadey taught a master class to the company dancers, accompanied by Carlos Fagundo. The class included pointework in the centre and inspiration and coaching from Mr. Dadey.

The SCBT dancers showed new piece by guest choreographer Jeffrey Gribler "Wiener Blut" in costume, and Mr. Dadey worked on some specific details that he would like to see in performance at the Festival. Next the dancers showed him Lauren Hood's "Resurgence" in costume, and Mr. Dadey continued his mentorship of our company in rehearsal.

Artistic director Diane Cypher was especially enthusiastic about how difficult Mr. Dadey's ballet class was, so watch out dancers! She was inspired by what he demanded of them, especially in how quickly he expected them to learn combinations. The Evaluation process is so valuable to our entire organization, as the Festival Artistic Director has the experience and is in the position to advise on every aspect of each company and school.

Our Guild Co-Chairwomen provided a lovely reception for Mr. Dadey and the Board of Directors, in which our board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.

Our dancers will carry all of this newfound knowledge and inspiration with them through the rest of this season and beyond. Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre will perform on the Wednesday performance in Spokane, Washington. Ruby Bennett, Quinn Cracolice, Juliette McLaughlin and Lauren Hood will represent SCBT in Honors Classes.

Our dancers look forward to taking classes from master teachers (including SCBT alumna Melody Mennite!) for 3 full days, plus making new friends, re-connecting with each other and immersing themselves in ballet without the distractions and pressure of academics.

A large group of Petite Company dancers is taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Festival, and they will enjoy their own track of classes.

Have a great trip dancers and chaperones!



Congratulations to Juliette McLaughlin and Lauren Hood

Studio students and SCBT Senior Company dancers Juliette McLaughlin and Lauren Hood will both enter the world of professional ballet following the culmination of this season. In one of the most competitive fields, we are so proud of the work they have done to earn this accomplishment. Juliette has signed a professional contract with Utah Metropolitan Ballet and Lauren has accepted a Trainee position with Ballet Met. Both young women have had a different path to arrive at this achievement.

Lauren studied at The Studio and was a member of SCBT for the 2015-2018 seasons. Upon graduation, Lauren continued her training elsewhere, eventually taking a break from ballet to travel, try yoga and other activities. After a 5 year hiatus, she decided to give Ballet one last try, and returned to The Studio last spring. After several grueling months getting back into shape, Lauren felt ready to audition for some companies and summer programs this holiday period. In December and January, she was seen by directors and recruiters from many different companies, until the offer from Ballet Met appeared.

A Trainee position is an entry-level position, much like being an apprentice or in a second company. So even though Lauren will not be paid as a dancer quite yet, she has got her foot in the door, which is a great achievement! Lauren's story illustrates that if you dream of something, you can make it happen with joy, hard work and diligence.

Juliette has been a student at The Studio since she was 8 years old, and progressed from the Petite Company through the Junior Company. She has been a member of the Senior Company for several years, making her mark on our performances with her skill and focus. She has attended summer programs at the San Francisco Ballet School, and represented SCBT in the Honors Repertoire class at last year's Ballet Alliance Festival.

Juliette applied to several colleges with respected dance programs and attended some auditions for ballet intensives and companies. Artistic Director Jacqueline Colledge singled Juliette out at the National Master Audition in southern California, offering her a fully paid employment contract with Utah Metropolitan Ballet for their 2024-2025 season. Three other SCBT alumni danced with UMB (formerly Utah Regional Ballet): Bonnie Costa, Kaelyn Magee and Sam Fulk, all of whom had wonderful careers and experiences dancing for the company. We can't wait to see where this first step in Juliette's career takes her.

Congratulations
to both of these talented dancers!



From top: Juliette as the Candy Cane in the 2023 production of "The Nutcracker." Juliette with longtime partner Otto Redlien in the "Black Swan Pas de Deux" in the 2023 In Concert. Juliette with her proud parents Brian and Christina, just after signing her employment contract; it takes not only a village, but a supportive family environment to achieve success! A classic photo of Juliette and Otto in their formative years. Bottom: Lauren as the Arabian Princess and in a contemporary ballet, both with partner Joseph Armendariz during her original membership in SCBT. Lauren at right in our 2023 "Nutcracker," freshly confident in her return to ballet. Photos by Bari Lee, Kevin Monahan and Michael Gerald-Yamasaki.

