

JULY/AUGUST 2018 NEWS

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence serving Santa Cruz County for over 30 years
Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher, Artistic Directors | Sandy Nelson, Administrative Manager | Mark Swan, SCBT Board President

Happy Summer!

SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE UNDERWAY

We are here throughout the summer working with our dancers, because consistency is paramount to making progress. Halfway through our summer we will assess each continuing student and make level placements for Fall. Dancers who are not here this summer will be placed according to our last viewing of their technique and progress. Please note that fall level placements consider commitment to the program, attendance and preparedness for class. We assign levels with the consideration of each individual student's maximum progress in mind. Many levels require more than one year to master the difficult technique of our syllabus. Do not be discouraged if you are placed in the same level for another year. Practice makes perfect, and mastery of the lower levels is extremely important for building a strong foundation.

Following our four-week Summer Session is our well-known and respected Summer Intensive Program for intermediate and advanced level dancers. This three-week program is geared toward the student with professional aspirations and features some of the best guest faculty working today. We bring these accomplished instructors to Santa Cruz just for our students. Our Level II students are gearing up in their technique, and we offer a special one-week Intensive Program just for them. Get the most out of your summer by studying with us right here at home!

RON CUNNINGHAM TO CREATE A NEW PIECE FOR SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE

The prestigious American choreographer Ron Cunningham has been engaged to create a new piece for the Senior Company this season. Ron has been Co-Artistic Director of the Sacramento Ballet for thirty years, for which he has choreographed many many successful new works. Our own Co-Artistic Directors Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher were lucky enough to dance under his direction, and respect his ability immensely. He is a champion of dance education and will also serve as the Pacific Region Festival Artistic Director this spring. We look forward to enjoying what he will create!

Ron's choreographic style cannot be pigeonholed into one genre. He has been choreographing for almost forty years with incredible range. He has choreographed story ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, and countless others. There seems to be no end to the depth of his abstract abilities either. The vast array includes *Carmina Burana*, *Etosha - Place of Dry Water*, *Incident at Black Briar*, *Ten to One*, *Ebony Concerto*. Robert and Diane are so excited to have him here to work with our dancers. "Many of my most cherished experiences as a professional dancer were being in a creative setting with Ron," states Diane. "I loved his personality in the studio. He could tell a great story, we would share a laugh and then he would challenge my socks off. He coached me in *Swan Lake* and I have complete respect for his storytelling abilities and his ability to enhance acting nuances." Robert remembers enjoying the same challenges during his career with Sacramento Ballet, especially when Ron choreographed his *Carmina Burana* featuring Robert in the leading role, an unusual position for a male dancer to be in. Diane says, "Ron and his wife Carinne really made us who we are today. I was trained by my mentor Barbara Crockett, but Ron took that training many steps further in artistry, musicality, character interpretation and he taught me how to make that important connection across the footlights with the audience. He really turned me into a dancer. I will forever be thankful for his imprint on my life."

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior Company dancers will be the lucky recipients of the Co-ADs' longtime professional relationship with Ron. We don't know what he will create for us, but we know it will be an experience of the highest caliber. Come see the company dance Ron's new work at In Concert 2019.



The Nutcracker

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "THE NUTCRACKER" SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Open Auditions will be held for Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" at the following times
Saturday, September 22:

Ages 4-6* Registration @4 pm, Audition 4:30-5:00 pm
Ages 7-10 Registration @3 pm, Audition 3:30-4:30 pm
Ages 11 & up Registration @1:30 pm, Audition 2-3:30 pm

*dancers age 4-6 must be enrolled in The Studio Pre-Ballet program to qualify. All other age groups are open to the public. There is a \$30 audition fee per dancer. Girls who dance en pointe, please bring pointe shoes into the audition with you (wear your technique shoes).

All performances are with LIVE ORCHESTRA and performed at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Performances are December 21, 22, 23. World-class guest artists perform the leading roles. Soloist and corps de ballet roles will be performed by SCBT Company dancers. Senior Company audition is Sunday, September 23. This audition also serves as a Call-Back from Saturday for any dancer(s) who need to be seen again for more casting possibilities. Go to scbt.org for more information.



COMPANY AUDITIONS TO BE HELD AUGUST 20

Open Auditions will be held for Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Senior and Junior Company dancers for the 2018-2019 season on Monday, August 20. Audition registration begins at 3 pm and the Audition will be held from 4 to 6 pm. Girls please bring pointe shoes. A high level of technique is required for Senior Company, as well as the ability to participate in the rigorous rehearsal schedule throughout the season. Minimum age is 13 years; however, extremely talented and focused dancers may be considered at a younger age. Junior Company dancers must be en pointe and at an intermediate level of technique. Age is generally 11 to 16 for Junior Company dancers, however, younger dancers may be considered if they demonstrate an excellent ability to concentrate and focus. All dancers must be dedicated to their training. For more information, please go to the Auditions page at scbt.org. There is a \$30 audition fee per dancer and a participation fee for the season TBD.



2017-2018
Senior Company
dancers, above.
Children audition for
"The Nutcracker," left.
Photos by Jim Schwartz.

SUMMER SESSION June 25-July 20

Pre-Ballet through Level VI, and Adult
Open Program classes

SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAMS

July 23-August 10 (3 weeks) Levels III-VI

July 23-27 (1 week) Level II program

Dancers in Levels III and up must take at least 3 weeks of the Summer Session to qualify for the Intensive Program. Level II students must take at least 2 weeks of the Summer Session to qualify for Intensive Program.

WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBORS GRXVITY

GRXVITY (pronounced *gravity*) has moved into Studio D on a longterm basis. The business, run by Erin Courtney, provides individualized programming to gain strength, mobility, and control. Private sessions are available, but the emphasis is in group training. Their schedule and some videos can be viewed on their website: grxvity.com

For more information on their programs, please contact Erin directly by phone (831) 431-3091 or email Erin@grxvity.com