

OCTOBER 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 | Karen Conley, SCBT Board President

CONGRATULATIONS NUTCRACKER DANCERS!

The cast of "The Nutcracker" has begun rehearsals and many challenges await our dancers. Many dancers repeat roles, some even return to the same role they had two years back along with other assignments. During the auditions, our Artistic Directors have the dancers do the actual steps which will be required by different roles they may aspire to. This includes our youngest dancers, who have to tackle skipping on the music for Ginger Snaps (a task which is not as easy as it sounds), smile confidently while doing a beautiful arabesque plié for Party Children, and accomplishing the difficult coordination and stamina required of the Chinese Children choreography. There are no small roles! Each and every dancer plays an important part of the whole that we present to 5,000 audience members in December. Congratulations to all who auditioned!

Height also comes into play for most roles, as costumes are a specific range of sizes. Our directors also aspire to challenge each dancer to their potential. While taking all of this into consideration, our directors make every effort to put our best product on the stage.

Some of our dancers will repeat a role with more finesse and confidence. Others will be challenged with a new role or roles. It is exciting to see how the dancers meet the particular challenges they are faced with. Some dancers have understudied roles they will dance this year, but there are so many factors that go into casting, that understudies do not necessarily end up performing a role. No matter the outcome, understudying is definitely a great building block which increases technique and experience.

The most important thing to cherish is that each dancer grows from *The Nutcracker* experience: gaining confidence and skill, while forging new relationships with fellow dancers. Happy rehearsing — we hope you all enjoy the process!



SEASON KICK-OFF PARTY AND AUCTION

Come enjoy our annual Season Kick-Off event, featuring a performance by the 2018 Petite Company! Come ready to bid and support Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. Ticket sales and participation fees amount to only a small part of our non-profit's survival. Donations and entry tickets support our programs, including new works, orchestra musicians and scholarships. See page 3 for some items that will be auctioned at the event.

Portuguese Hall ~ Sunday, October 28 @5 pm

**Tickets may be purchased on Saturdays in
The Studio lobby**

HAVE DINNER OUT AT PIZZA MY HEART WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 AND SUPPORT SCBT

Have dinner at the **41st Avenue PIZZA MY HEART in Capitola** between 4 and 9 pm Wednesday, October 3 and the restaurant will give 30% of the proceeds to SCBT. Be sure to mention that you are dining in support of Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. This special applies to take-out orders, but not orders placed online. Be sure to tell them you're supporting Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre when you order.



Left, Mother Ginger with one of her Ginger Snaps; above, Pamela Martin conducts the orchestra in Dress rehearsal; photographed by Nikki Brooks. In-studio photos on the next page by Jim Schwartz.



Glossary of Terms for New Students and Parents

CLASS is where ballet students learn new skills and practice them over and over again, such as barrework, coordination exercises, stretches, etcetera. Class is where the technical foundation of classical ballet is achieved. Students master each level as specified in our syllabus, and as they do so they are promoted until they reach the highest level in our academy, which is Level VI. Level VI dancers are often on the cusp of professional careers in dance. Classes are offered by The Studio, which is why tuition payments are made to this business.

REHEARSAL is where dancers learn and practice choreography which will be performed on stage, for example in "The Nutcracker" or another ballet for the spring In Concert performances. Rehearsals are where groups of dancers work together, as in a corps de ballet (picture the Swans in "Swan Lake"), so not only is each dancer perfecting the movements they are taught, but they are working together with others, dancing to the music together, making formations and moving through space as a unit. Performances are presented by Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre, thus any participation fees are paid to SCBT.

PERFORMANCE is a presentation which is held in a theater for an audience. The SCBT "Nutcracker" is performed at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium with a live orchestra; patrons purchase tickets either at the Civic Box Office, or via telephone or online through SantaCruzTickets.com. The SCBT In Concert spring repertoire performances are held at the Crocker Theater at Cabrillo College. Tickets to In Concert are purchased through the VAPA Box Office at Cabrillo College, or via telephone or online through the college's website.

TECHNIQUE is what is gained through our Professional Training Program. Classical ballet technique is the foundation for every other form of dance. The more proficient a dancer becomes, the more strength, versatility, grace, lightness and expression they acquire, which results in being able to display a dynamic range both on stage and in the studio.

CORPS DE BALLET is a group of dancers, usually female, who work together to create a beautiful whole, such as the Snowflakes in "The Nutcracker." All major classical ballets also have major corps de ballet scenes which are integral to the beauty in telling the overall story.

SOLOIST is a person who dances solo roles, not necessarily all the time, but frequently.

PRINCIPAL is a star dancer, who dances mostly the main role in productions (such as Cinderella in "Cinderella," Princess Aurora in "The Sleeping Beauty," Giselle in "Giselle"); principal dancer positions in a professional company are held by both male and female dancers.

PROFESSIONAL BALLET COMPANY is just that: a company whose dancers make their living dancing. Professional dancers attend classes and rehearsals and present performances with their company. Examples are both big and small, such as San Francisco Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet, etcetera. Professional companies exist all over the world.

BARRE or **BARREWORK** is the foundation of the ballet class. Exercises are practiced again and again to perfect alignment and execution. These exercises are repeated or built upon as the class progresses. Even professional dancers put daily energy into perfecting their barrework.

CENTRE is the second part of a ballet class, when the dancers are warmed up and prepared to execute difficult adagios (slow sustained movement exercises) and move across the floor with more dynamic range.

POINTEWORK is where female dancers dance on their toes with the assistance of special shoes, called pointe shoes. Students must be incredibly strong and mentally capable before they are ready to "dance en pointe". At The Studio, typically a class in Level III will endure one year of preparatory pointe classes before they are ready to get their first pair of pointe shoes. Our directors will let you know when you're ready to begin Pre-Pointe classes, by adding them to the curriculum for your level.

VISIT OUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATIVE ARTICLES FROM PAST YEARS



2 ORCHESTRA SEATS TO THE BROADWAY SHOW
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
Golden Gate Theater,
San Francisco
2 pm, April 20
(date can be changed;
no children under 5)

SEASON KICK-OFF PARTY AND AUCTION PORTUGUESE HALL

5 pm ~ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

Performance by the Petite Company!

Many more items will be auctioned off than described here.

RESERVED PARKING SPACE AT THE STUDIO

starting Nov/Dec in 2 month increments

DINNER PARTY
for up to 8 guests,
prepared and served by
Robert Kelley & Diane Cypher
at Robert's beautiful
house in Watsonville
invite your friends or team
up to bid

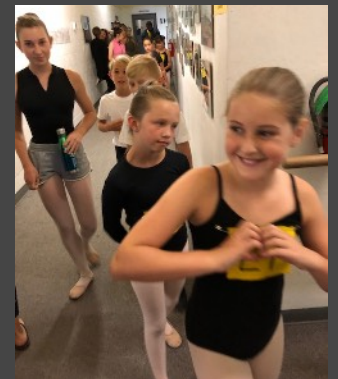
PRIVATE LESSON
with Diane Cypher
must be in Level IV or higher

Your
donation
here!

donation
bin is in
The Studio
lobby

MENTORING CAN BEGIN AT A YOUNG AGE

We are proud of our Junior and Senior Company dancers who helped younger aspirants in the auditions for "The Nutcracker." We encourage our dancers to take the initiative and be welcoming and generous with their time and guidance. This thoughtful assistance to younger dancers is part of our Modus Operandi and it benefits everyone, the givers and the beneficiaries. It also makes our culture one of kindness and support. Our company dancers understand the stresses of attending an audition better than anyone. Thank you, dancers!



*Thanks to
Christina
McLaughlin
for the photos of
Audition Day!*