

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence serving Santa Cruz County for over 30 years  
Diane Cypher, Artistic Director | Pamela Martin, Music Director | Sandy Nelson, Administrative Director

# THE SANTA CRUZ NUTCRACKER: CLARA'S DREAM

## DANCERS, CREATIVES AND VOLUNTEERS ARE HARD AT WORK ON OUR HOLIDAY FILM PRODUCTION

Alumni-driven, our film adaptation of "The Nutcracker" is coming along brilliantly. Featuring 44 talented dancers and 4 additional character artists, the choreography by alumna **Flora Chatwin** tells the story of Clara's Dream. To be filmed on locations around Santa Cruz, including longtime sponsors of SCBT and local landmarks, the film will be directed by alumna **Georgina Wilson**. Third alumna **Alicia Houser** rounds out the creative team, picking up *all* loose ends, including directing rehearsals, filming rehearsals, helping direct the dancers on set, scouting locations, photographing locations, creative energy, etcetera! Managing the creative team is our own artistic director Diane Cypher, who couldn't be more proud of these brilliant young women. SCBT is lucky to have such a Dream Team working on our holiday offering this season!

**GEORGINA** graduated from UT@Austin with a BFA in Dance. She then embarked on a freelance career which took her to the U.K. Recently relocating back to California, Georgina contacted us just after Covid hit to find out how things were going, and mentioned she was interested in filmmaking, having studied film in college alongside dance. Her interest sparked the idea for our "Nutcracker" film. Meanwhile, her friend from Scotts Valley High Jace Hardwick started his own production company in the Los Angeles area. His Action Studios crew will provide the cinematography. The professional filmography will include drone footage over West Cliff and a local Christmas tree farm. We love local connections! Our enclave is not only beautiful, but full of artistic merit.

Recent graduate **FLORA** begins her higher education at University of California at Irvine this fall. Pursuing a dance degree, she has been able to complete all of the choreography for the Nutcracker film before moving south. Flora has been creating new works for several years now, and we have confidence in her talent and work ethic. We wish her the best in her pursuits and are looking forward to her work on the big screen!

**ALICIA** is participating in her senior year at Muhlenberg College in Allentown PA remotely, from home in Santa Cruz. She is mere months from attaining her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. How fortunate that this talented young woman is in town when we need her! Her Instagram postings of Flora dancing were a motivator of the Nutcracker film project. Obviously there is also a chemistry between the two dance artists. Alicia has been involved in many different facets of the film, which we have been working on since June.

Music Director Pamela Martin conducts the score, which was recorded at last year's performance at the Civic Auditorium by Devi Pride. Our 2019 orchestra was phenomenal and we are thrilled that the score of our film is played by these wonderful musicians! Many of them have also volunteered to be featured visually in the movie, adding an extra layer of artistry to the product.

Be ready for something different than our normal production, in almost every way. The cast will act their way through the story while dancing. What a great experience for our dancers. We can't wait to see Clara's Dream come to life featuring the talents of all involved!

**Stay tuned for release date and how to view/purchase the film**



## STUDIO CLOSED OCTOBER 17-21 ~ NO CLASSES

While we film *The Santa Cruz Nutcracker: Clara's Dream* on locations all over the county, The Studio will be closed. We apologize for any inconvenience, but need to focus our energies on this project for the film period. We'll make it up to our students by staying open an additional week in December. **Last day of class before holiday break will be December 19**



### OUR BEAUTIFUL ENCLAVE PROVIDES A SPECTACULAR BACKDROP FOR THE NUTCRACKER FILM

Lights, Camera, Action! The Action Studios crew will be in town to film our movie October 17-21. Forty-four of our dancers will appear in the film as well as 4 character artists, 15 musicians and our own Music Director Pamela Martin. We can't wait to enjoy our favorite holiday tradition in this year's variation

## THE SANTA CRUZ NUTCRACKER: CLARA'S DREAM



*A few of our filming locations pictured, clockwise from top left: Pacific Cookie Company, the Carousel at the Boardwalk, Bargetto Winery, the Dream Inn, Carousel Taffy and Treats in Capitola, the Lighthouse on West Cliff, Donnelly's Chocolates.*



THE SANTA CRUZ NUTCRACKER:  
**CLARA'S DREAM**

**FEATURING OUR STUNNING ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS**

Our film will feature visual cameos of several of our 2019 orchestra musicians, including Music Director and Conductor Pamela Martin. Special thanks to orchestra contractor Norman Peck for organizing the musicians!

**AND ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF OUR 2019 GUEST STARS  
MELODY MENNITE AND LUCIEN POSTLEWAITE**

Excerpts of Melody and Lucien from last year's production at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium will be included in the dream. Principal dancers in their respective companies, Houston Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet, Melody and Lucien enjoy dancing together in their hometown when they can.



*Maestro Pamela Martin, at far left, in rehearsal at the Civic Auditorium. Principal percussionist and orchestra contractor Norman Peck, at left. SCBT alumni Melody Mennite and Lucien Postlewaite, above, together in our 2011 production.*



**THE BALLET ALLIANCE**

**CREATES A SEASON-LONG SERIES OF EVENTS FOR 2020-2021**

The Ballet Alliance member directors are working on an alternative to the annual Festival. Normally held in the spring, the 2021 Festival was scheduled to take place in El Paso, Texas, and has been canceled due to pandemic concerns. The directors had weekend-long discussions to come up with 4 events that will take place over the entire season.

Member company directors relish the professional evaluations of our work, the development of our emerging choreographers, and the networking and mentoring of being a part of TBA. To meet these criteria as best as possible during restricted protocols, the directors have come up with the following plan for this year. SCBT Senior Company dancers are required to participate. Junior and Petite Company dancers are invited to participate in Event No. 4. Event pass cost per dancer TBD; probably in the neighborhood of \$125 for whole series of Festival Mosaic events.

**1: COLLEGE DANCE PROGRAMS WEBINAR**

This Fall a webinar will be provided for our company dancers, where different dance programs will be discussed at length. What is the difference between them, what do they cost and how to apply will be part of the discussion.

**2: TRAINING EVALUATION BY ADJUDICATOR**

In 2021, each member company will present class to an Adjudicator, who is an esteemed professional in the field. SCBT will participate virtually, zooming in the Adjudicator. We value this person's assessment and evaluation of our technique and artistry, and use it as a gauge of how we are doing.

**3: EMERGING CHOREOGRAPHY MENTORING, SHOWCASE AND AWARDS**

Early in 2021, young choreographers will present new works for evaluation by a panel made up of TBA directors. Assessments will be made and works will be narrowed down to finalists which will qualify for awards and scholarships. Works may be submitted in one of two categories: traditional in-studio/theater, and site-specific choreography.

**4: MASTER CLASSES**

In the spring, virtual master classes will be provided by some of the country's most outstanding instructors.