



HOLIDAY **2020** NEWSLETTER



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

Premiere Screening at the Boardwalk Drive-In Saturday, Dec 12

Stream for the holidays!
DVDs are available

Go to **scbt.org** TICKETS page
for information on all viewing options



**ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR EFFORTS OF SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE
DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, MUSICIANS AND ALL-POWERFUL ALUMNI CREATIVE TEAM**

Lights, Camera, Action! The Action Studios crew filmed our story at 9 locations around Santa Cruz, from the iconic beauty of the mountains and the Pacific Ocean at West Cliff to local businesses. Support the survival of SCBT while enjoying a creative take on the traditional story and Tchaikovsky's beautiful score told through site-specific choreography on film.

OUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION REMAINS INTACT THROUGH A NEW MEDIUM THIS SEASON



*Clara and the Nutcracker Prince ride bikes provided by Epicenter Cycling
The Arabian princess filmed by Action Studios on the patio at the Museum of Art and History.
Photos by Jim Schwartz.*

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Thank you to the local businesses who have supported us through the years, and further by lending their locations for filming our movie!



Bargetto Winery

Bargetto Winery is the perfect location for Clara and the Nutcracker Prince to arrive on their bikes, welcomed by the Garland Dancers, and observe the beautiful Waltz of the Flowers on the back patio. Flowers Choreography by Ron Cunningham adapted for the site by Diane Cypher. Direction by Alicia Houser.

This scene features musicians Plamen Velikov on string bass, Robin Snyder on cello, Nicola Gruen on violin, Jackie Orzel on French horn, John Weeks on timpani, and our Music Director Pamela Martin.



THREE DIFFERENT SCENES, ONE LOCATION

Peacock Tree Farm was the backdrop for several different locations in the film. Thank you to Lisa Hoffner and family for welcoming us to your beautiful farm!



Peacock Tree Farm

The first day of filming was action-packed. Directed by Alicia Houser and the Action Studios film crew, our dancers made it work and tried not to get too dirty.



Clockwise from top left: Jace Hardwick of Action Studios and Alicia Houser discuss the action of Clara's Family choosing their Christmas tree. Musicians appearing in the Snow Scene are Max Hollander and Peter Lemberg on oboe, Guy Clark on trumpet and Norman Peck on percussion. Three Little Mice ready for some mischief. Dancers and musicians ready for Battle; appearing in this section of the scene are Kris Palmer on flute, Amy Duxbury and Gail Selburn on bassoon, Norman Peck and Stuart Langsam on percussion. Snow Queen and King sparkle in the Snow Scene. Musicians Yuri Kye on violin and Stephen Moore on viola. Inset: Music Director Pamela Martin.



GIVING BACK TO LONGTIME SCBT SUPPORTERS

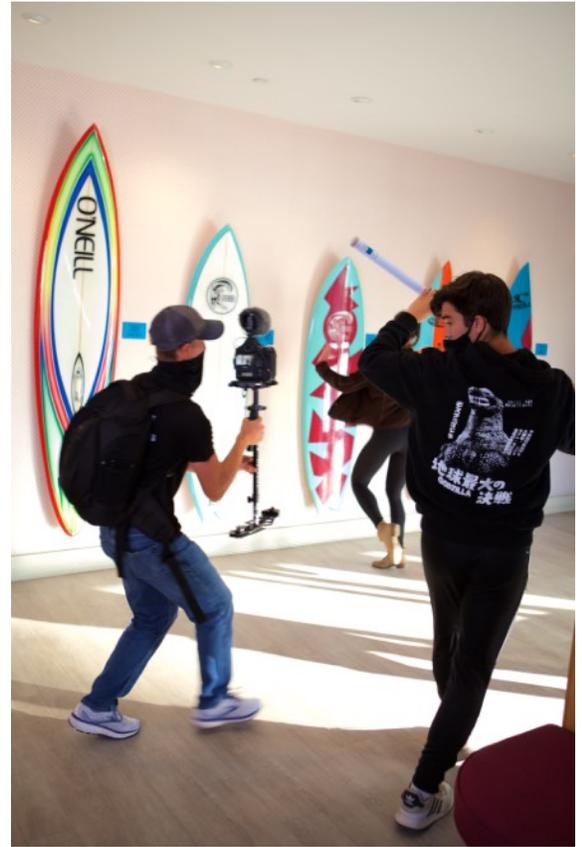
The Dream Inn has long sponsored our seasons by donating hotel rooms for our Guest Artists and Music Director and further supporting us along the way each year. As with other sponsor locations, we hope the community supports these local businesses who have a stake in the future of arts education and performances in Santa Cruz.

The Dream Inn

Clara has to fall asleep to have her fantastic dream — what better place to rest her head than at this iconic hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk?

The Dream Inn has supported our efforts for several years as season sponsor. We thank them for their support and hope that film audiences are inspired to plan a stay or have a meal on Jack's Patio (one of the best burgers in town along with other great bites).

Right, Action Studios films Clara entering the hotel with her family. Left, the retro juke box in the lobby.



Loeffl Carousel at The Boardwalk

It just wouldn't feel like a film based in Santa Cruz without footage of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk! Special thanks to Karley Pope of the Seaside Company for arranging time for our cast and crew on the Carousel. Built by carver Charles I.D. Loeffl in 1911, this spectacular ride provides the backdrop for guest star Melody Mennite's Sugar Plum Fairy solo, further enhancing Clara's Dream.

Pictured at left, veteran character artist Tom Bonura makes an appearance as Drosselmeyer, bringing magic to Clara's dream. Clara enjoys the Marzipan dancers.



ACT II DIVERTISSEMENTS MONTAGE WAS SHOT AT 5 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Chinese and Ginger Snaps directed by Alicia Houser. Spanish, Arabian and Marzipan directed by Georgina Wilson.
All site-specific choreography by Flora Chatwin.



Lighthouse on West Cliff

The Chinese divertissement was filmed at the Lighthouse



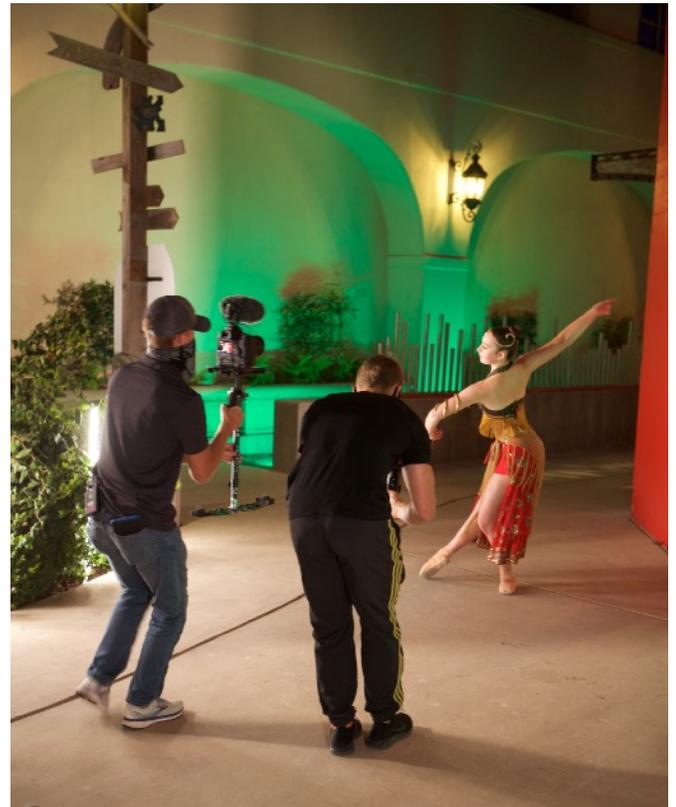
Donnelly's Chocolates

Spanish Chocolate dancers



Carousel Taffy and Treats

This colorful shop in Capitola is the perfect backdrop for the Ginger Snaps.



Museum of Art and History

The beautiful patio of the MAH serves as the backdrop for the Arabian Coffee Divertissement, below.



Pacific Cookie Company

Longtime SCBT supporter Pacific Cookie Company makes an excellent backdrop for our German Marzipan divertissement.

**Last Day of Class before the holiday break is
Saturday, December 19**

SCBT Company dancers will be offered some classes over the break

**The Studio will reopen for 2021
Monday, January 4**

**SCBT will hold a mid-season audition for
Junior Company in January (date TBD);
Level III dancers who are en pointe qualify.**



HOLIDAY FUND RAISER

Every year our wonderful Guild Co-Chairwomen organize a holiday fund raiser, which is one of our biggest money makers of the season. This year, we will be offering the catalog of items online to make it easier to sell in the time of Covid. Participating vendors include Donnelly's Chocolates, Fish Princess Farms, Soquel Vineyards, among others.

SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE COMPANY DANCERS 2020-2021

These dancers pictured below are young people who are getting it done. Our Company dancers range in age from 12 through 19 this season, and are pre-professional classical ballet students. Pre-professional means they train at a high level each and every day, every week, every month, even through Covid.

Currently, with the Nutcracker filming wrapped up and in post-production, our Senior Company dancers are working on emerging works. Seven dancers are creating new pieces, choreographing on their peers. Choreographer extraordinaire Eva Stone will provide feedback and mentor the choreographers mid-process. The works will be further evaluated by a special panel arranged by our Artistic Director, and finally 3 or 4 pieces will be shown to Ballet Alliance in February. The Ballet Alliance will give awards and scholarships based on choreographic merit and creativity.

Whether these dancers continue on to careers in the field or not, they will most surely become contributing and creative members of society. Their dedication to their art form is inspiring and — especially in trying times like the present — it proves that if you put your mind and heart into something, you can achieve it. Bravo, dancers! Have a rewarding season, however it unfolds!

