

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

Happy New Year!

**All of us at Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre and
The Studio School of Classical Ballet wish you and
your families a healthy 2022**

**Thank you to all of our dancers, musicians, volunteers,
crew and audience members for making our 19th year
producing**

The Nutcracker

at the Civic Auditorium possible

So many people came together to help put our annual holiday production on the stage, and each and every one of you made a huge difference! We love that so many alumni and alumni parents returned to help out backstage.

Long-time long-time alumni parents Tommy and Susan Williams have provided the presentation bouquets for our Sugar Plum Fairy and been on the Civic Load In Crew for many years. Their daughter Emma is currently completing her Masters in Structural Engineering, to give a point of reference for how long they have continued to volunteer. Similarly, Wendy Lord has led the Stage Left backstage prop runners for since her children Teresa and Philip danced with us over ten years ago. (Teresa used to help backstage as well, but was unable to help this year due to her own job commitments.) Alumni Ryan, Caroline, Ava, Lily all helped backstage and their experience with the production made things easier for everyone.

Alumna Riley Butler was integral to our production as Rehearsal Director, taking on the Battle Scene, Ginger Snaps and Party Scene, as well as performing in the ballet herself. She took over the rehearsals for all new choreography created by Flora Chatwin. Riley's mom Wendy, formerly our Volunteer Coordinator, helped backstage as well.

Our Guild Co-Chairwomen and Board of Directors, all volunteers, continue their commitment to SCBT and have the difficult and often thankless job of raising money to pay for all of the expenses, from daily operations to theater rental, musician and guest artist fees, our Music Director and costume rentals. Our incredible Costumer Michelle Maddy has volunteered for the job of getting costumes onstage in one piece, from fittings to repairs and alterations, and does an amazing job making sure the audience can't tell that some of our costumes are over 30 years old (yes, thirty).

It's not possible to mention every person who helped, but these key people have held posts for years and take on an enormous responsibility. Meghan O'Hagan has served as Volunteer Coordinator for the past several years, and has done a stunning job, through Covid restrictions this year is especially impressive. Devon Rossetto Francis has been Lead Dresser for the past few years and helps new parents learn the ropes of being backstage. Our kitchen crew, for several years Lei Su and Kirk Halstead, Janice Coury and Marco Ginella along with Mike O'Donnell and others, have kept our dancers and musicians fed and happy throughout rehearsals and performances. Boutique and Flower chairs and helpers, security crew (who this year also got the job of checking vaccination and test status), dressers, prop runners, ushers ... each and every person who helped made a huge difference! Special thanks to the adult performers who return year after year to lend their talents to our Party Scene. We added Grandparents to the scene, which rounded out the festive air. Lastly, a special shout-out to our Administrative Manager Sandy Nelson magically keeps all of the pieces to this huge puzzle in order. Happy 2022 everyone!



*The Nutcracker Prince appears in the Battle Scene
photographed by Steve DiBartolomeo*

STEVE DIBARTOLOMEO photographed Dress Rehearsal and has generously offered downloads of his photos to our Nutcracker families free of charge. He will continue to upload new images to his GoogleDrive over the next few weeks. If you are interested in additional images of a specific scene or group of dancers, Steve invites you to email him directly and let him know what you are interested in. Go to **NUTCRACKER** to view his photographs. Email Steve at steve@westsidestudioimages.com



Petite Company Auditions 4 pm Saturday, January 22

Dancers must be at least 7 years old by the date of audition and a student of The Studio to qualify.

\$30 audition fee per dancer.

\$250 Participation fee for the 2022 season.

Parent Meeting after the audition at 5:30 pm.

Dancers will be cast in the full-length ballet *Giselle* to be performed April 30, and may have other performing opportunities as the season progresses



The Battle Scene, featuring great new choreography by alumna Flora Chatwin!



Clockwise from above: The Battle Scene, guest stars Leta Biasucci and Lucien Postlewaite in the Grand Pas de Deux, Riley Butler as Mother Ginger with one of her Ginger Snaps, the Arabian Coffee divertissement, the Snow Queen and King, Party Children revel at the presence of the Soldier Doll.

Photos by Steve DiBartolomeo.



SENIOR COMPANY DANCERS PREPARE FOR THE BALLET ALLIANCE EVALUATION

Senior Company dancers had a short, much-deserved break after "The Nutcracker," then returned to the studio on December 27th to learn repertoire for the upcoming Ballet Alliance Evaluation. Alumna Flora Chatwin is currently a BFA candidate at UC Irvine and has created a beautiful new work for the Senior Company. Guest Choreographer Eva Stone came to town to resurrect her riveting "Lavender," which was commissioned for In Concert 2020. Both pieces will be considered for performance at the Festival by our Festival Artistic Director Susan Brooker. Two of our own dancers are also presenting new original works for Festival consideration and will receive mentoring by three different professionals in the field courtesy of The Ballet Alliance.

