

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, Academy Registrar

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 10 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 11 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm

This is our 20th year at the Civic Auditorium with Live Orchestra!

Tickets can be purchased at [SantaCruzTickets.com](https://santacruztickets.com)
or at the Civic Box Office during office hours at 307 Church Street
or by telephone during box office hours (831) 420-5260
Box office hours: Tuesday-Friday 12 noon-4 pm

Maestro Martin
at the podium
in rehearsal



**All performances star
guest artists
Melody Mennite and
Jonatan Luján
as the Sugar Plum Fairy
and her Cavalier**



SCBT Welcomes Guest Artist Jonatan Luján

Early in 2022, alumni Melody Mennite and Lucien Postlewaite were invited to perform together in our "Nutcracker," which they have done in past years. These two danced together as students with SCBT, and now enjoy individual careers, Melody with Houston Ballet and Lucien with Pacific Northwest Ballet, both as principal dancers. Melody was given permission to take time off from her Houston Ballet "Nutcracker" schedule to dance with us, but Lucien was not; so the search for a male dancer with the ability and caliber to dance with Melody began. Through her own connections, Melody found a dream partner in Jonatan Luján, who luckily happened to be available on the dates of our production. This will be the first time these two artists will perform together, and we can't wait to see what magic they will create on the Civic stage!

**Good Seats
are still
Available!**

*Archival
Dress/Orchestra
Rehearsal photo of
the Party Scene in
Act I by Devi Pride.
Devi will once again
be filming our
production for
archival purposes.
Order forms will be
available backstage
for cast members.*



IMPORTANT END OF THE YEAR DATES

Monday, Dec 5 ~ Studio Closed: Nutcracker rest day for Levels I, II and III

Tues/Wed/Thurs, Dec 6-8 ~ Classes as usual: Pre-Ballet, Boys, Primary, Levels I, II, III, V/VI

Thursday, Dec 8 ~ Level III Choreography Class Parent Observation

Saturday, Dec 10 ~ Studio Closed; "The Nutcracker" performances at the Civic Auditorium

Monday, Dec 12 ~ Studio Closed: Nutcracker rest day for Levels I, II and III

Tuesday, Dec 13 ~ Pre-Ballet, Boys, Primary, Level III: **Bring a Friend to Class**; Levels V/VI Last Choreography Class

Wednesday, Dec 14 ~ Level III Special fun class with Myra!

Thursday, Dec 15 ~ Levels I and II: **Bring a Friend to Class**; Level III regular Choreography Class

Saturday, Dec 17 ~ Last Day of Class; Levels V/VI in the morning (no Adult class); Dancer/Parent Beginning Ballet Class

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Monday, January 9 ~ Classes resume for 2023

SCBT Company dancers have classes and rehearsals for new repertoire Dec 27-Jan 7
Refer to Rehearsal Schedule for details

SENIOR COMPANY DANCERS PREPARE FOR SPRING SEASON

Our dedicated company dancers will enjoy a well-deserved break for the holidays, and will be back in the Studio on December 27. SCBT has engaged two guest choreographers to create new works on our company dancers for the spring In Concert performances, and consideration for The Ballet Alliance Evaluation and Festival.

Eva Stone is a renowned choreographer based in Seattle, who also teaches this group of our students via Zoom each week. SCBT has performed several of her works through the years, "End of a Year," "Cadence and 1," and "Lavender." She directs the Next Step program at Pacific Northwest Ballet, which trains new choreographers, as well as teaches Choreography in the PNB school. She is also the founder of the annual dance festival CHOP SHOP: Bodies in Motion. Eva is an energetic and positive presence and we look forward to hosting her in our studio and seeing what she will create for this season's dancers.

The second week of the rehearsal period will feature Dayton choreographer Erin Robbins. Erin's forte are the classical and neoclassical idioms, so most likely she will create something en pointe. But either of these professionals may alter initial plans depending on how they are affected by our dancers once they get to know them better. Erin has taught Ballet at the Studio for many years in the summers and we are excited to welcome her in this new capacity as guest choreographer.



This season's Senior Company dancers receive a warm welcome at the Season Kick-Off Dinner earlier this fall. Special thanks to the Bennett Family and Hope Church for donating the venue for this event!

Action shot from the 2021 Nutcracker, photographed by Steve DiBartolomeo



PETITE COMPANY DANCERS AGE 10 HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL TBA FESTIVAL

The annual Ballet Alliance Festival is an excellent educational event for students of dance. The organization has high standards for training and is made up of other pre-professional companies, just like

SCBT. A 4-day Festival is offered annually, this year to be held in El Paso Texas. Petite Company dancers who are interested in attending, please sign up on the Festival board, and we will have an informational meeting early in 2023. Petite Company dancers will have 2 daily dance classes plus seminars, and will enjoy watching 4 performances at the Festival. A parent or guardian must accompany Petite Company dancers. More information is posted at The Studio.

Petite Company Auditions

Saturday, February 11

Dancers age 7 and up are invited to audition.

\$30 audition fee per dancer.

Must be a student at The Studio to qualify - enroll today!

Petite Company will have the opportunity to perform in The Jungle Book this spring! Rehearsals begin March 4 with guest choreographer Debra Rogo.