

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 | Mark Swan, SCBT Board President

## *Welcome to The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre 2017-2018 Season*

Thank you for choosing our academy. We understand that success does not come easily in the world of classical ballet and we are here to help make the process fun and rewarding. Please do not hesitate to contact our Registrar Sandy Nelson with any questions you may have. We offer two Parent Observation weeks throughout the year and Parent Conferences in the spring with the directors. Our students benefit from performing experience and dancers age 4 and up are encouraged to audition for "The Nutcracker" in September, a production with live orchestra. See page 2 for more information on auditions. All students participate in our end of the year Student Demonstration, which is a technical achievement-oriented showcase, not a costume-oriented event. There are no additional fees to participate in the Demonstration and each participant receives 2 complimentary tickets.

Established in 1976, The Studio has been training dancers for 41 years. Directed by Diane Cypher and Robert Kelley since 1998, The Studio and Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre have graduated many professional dancers and have seen many others attend prestigious college and university dance

programs. Both directors have been teaching ballet for over thirty years and continuously hone their skills in the studio. Following retirement from their own dance careers, they chose to locate to beautiful Santa Cruz and partner in business ownership and as Artistic Directors of Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. With principal instructor Linda Lock, they endeavor to prepare each and every student for a career in dance.

Many of our students decide to pursue academics instead of the dance profession. By the time they graduate high school, they have been instilled with masterful organizational skills, work ethic, cooperation, the ability to follow intricate directions, multi-tasking, grace, beautiful posture, confidence, stamina (both mental and physical), flexibility, determination ... the list goes on. All of these attributes will benefit our graduates throughout their lives, no matter what vocation they attain. It is our mission to teach these time-honored skills where results are gained by hard work and fortitude, not by self-entitlement.

We welcome new and returning students alike to our 2017-2018 season and look forward to working with you!

### **Congratulations 2017-2018 Senior and Junior Company dancers!**



*Senior and Junior Company dancers following their successful audition for the 2017-2018 season; photographed by James Schwartz.*

# The Nutcracker

## OPEN AUDITIONS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

**Ages 4-6 years** (must be a student of The Studio to qualify)

**4:30 pm** registration **5:00-5:30 pm** Audition

**Ages 7-9 years** **4:00 pm** registration **4:30-5:00 pm** Audition

**Ages 9-11 years** **3:00 pm** registration **3:30-4:30 pm** Audition

**Ages 12 and up** **1:30 pm** registration **2:00-3:30 pm** Audition

Arrive by registration time; bring pointe shoes if you dance en pointe and attend the 2 pm audition regardless of age.

**\$30 audition fee per dancer.**

Rehearsals begin September 30 and October 1. Parent Meeting Sept 30 at 1:30 pm. Performances are December 15, 16, 17 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Parent participation is required; there is a participation fee.

❄️ *All performances  
with live  
orchestra!*



Go to  
**scbt.org**  
for more  
information



❄️  
Be a part of our favorite  
holiday tradition!



*Photos by Lynne Owen and Michael Gerald-Yamasaki*





## 2017-2018 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre is thrilled to announce the repertoire for the upcoming season. The official start is of course, our beautiful production of "The Nutcracker," performed with live orchestra at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Each year, over seventy dancers come together, along with volunteers, designers, costumers, musicians, crew and theater personnel to bring the story of Clara and her holiday dream to life. Led by Executive Artistic Directors Robert Kelley and Diane Cypher, and Music Director and orchestra conductor Pamela Martin, the iconic Tchaikovsky score and beautiful choreography bring the holidays to Santa Cruz like no other tradition.

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre In Concert, our annual spring repertoire performances, will feature the classic "Swan Lake Act II." Also on the program will be premieres by our own award-winning Robert Kelley and the return of guest choreographer Debra Pearse Rogo's neoclassical "Gaelicia." Debra has worked with our dancers many times, bringing her wit and mathematic abilities to her choreography. SCBT last performed "Gaelicia" in 2000, so it is definitely time for its return. Come see us dance!



*Prince Siegfried and the Swan Queen  
Odette in "Swan Lake"*



*Alumna Kaelyn  
Magee as the Sugar  
Plum Fairy in  
"The Nutcracker"*



*Swans in "Swan Lake"*



*Flowers in "The Nutcracker"*

*Photo of the Waltz of the Flowers from last season's production of "The Nutcracker" by Michael Gerald-Yamasaki;  
note the beautiful new costumes acquired last year which were constructed by San Jose Art Institute masters students.*

*Photos of "Swan Lake Act II" by Bari Lee.*



## 2017-2018 COMPANY DANCERS

Welcome to this season's dancers! We are glad to announce several promotions from last year and introduce some new dancers into the SCBT Senior and Junior Companies. The Senior Company will be made up of nineteen dancers, and the Junior Company is made up of seven dancers.

Senior Company dancers are already hard at work learning choreography for the spring's "Swan Lake Act II." Rehearsals began mid-August and the Swans are learning the movement vocabulary, which includes Your Arms As Wings and the intricate musicality of the ballet. The principal dancers have been working on overhead lifts all summer long, and are now in the process of fine-tuning their artistry with both the acting and musicality the ballet demands. This is all above and beyond the challenging technique required of this classic. Presenting this ballet is a daunting task for all of the dancers and requires difficult technique in unison for the swans, which is great preparation for those of our dancers who are pursuing a career in the field. We can't wait to see the fruits of their hard work later this season.

The 2017 **Petite Company** dancers will dance their final performance at our Season Kick-Off Event later this fall. Auditions for 2018 Petite Company will be held in January.

## REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA

All SCBT company dancers are invited to participate in a wonderful opportunity, which is the Regional Dance America/Pacific Festival. Senior Company is required to attend and will present a work in performance at the festival, to be chosen in 2018 by the region's Adjudicator. Junior Company dancers are encouraged to attend. Petite Company dancers age 10 and older are invited to attend and must be accompanied by their parent chaperone.

The annual Festival is attended by the Pacific Region member companies, 20 companies located throughout the western fifth of the United States, all pre-professional ballet companies, just like Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. The dancers participate in master classes, attend evening performances by their peers and have the opportunity to audition for national intensive programs and college and university dance departments. It is a fun and eye-opening event.

For more information, go to the Regional Dance America page at [scbt.org](http://scbt.org) and from there find links to our region's website as well as the national website and RDA National Choreography Intensive website. There is some information about the Festival posted in the hallway of The Studio (currently opposite the Company bulletin board) for interested parties. We will hold an informative meeting about RDA participation after the holidays.

*Company dancers celebrating a successful audition after months and years of hard work. A supportive community is integral to the SCBT experience; our dancers show their excitement regarding a promotions of their peers and welcome a new dancer into the fold.*

*Photos by  
James  
Schwartz.*



## Annual Guild Membership Drive

**Annual leotard sale and  
Guild membership drive immediately  
following "The Nutcracker" Parent  
Meeting on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.  
Join us in The Studio lobby for light  
refreshments, shop great deals and  
renew your Guild membership.**