

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

SANTA CRUZ BALLET THEATRE ORCHESTRA

Have we mentioned this? All of our *Nutcracker* performances feature a professional 52-piece orchestra! This is an achievement we are very proud of — if you couldn't tell. Our production moved from the old Cabrillo College Theater to the Civic downtown to accommodate the orchestra in 2002, and we haven't looked back since. A live orchestra brings so much more to the enjoyment of the ballet, for audience and dancers alike. It also puts a strain on our Board and Guild to raise funds to support such an undertaking. We encourage any of our patrons, parents, volunteers, who might have a business in mind which would like to sponsor our efforts, please tell them about us! Our efforts not only educate our dancers and inspire our audiences, but *The Nutcracker* brings hundreds of people downtown to visit stores and restaurants. We aim to hire these 52 stellar musicians every year, forever, but we cannot do it alone. Please help if you can. Stop by and see Sandy in the office, email our Board Chairman Mark Swan mark@scbt.org about how you can help. Thank you!

Many thanks to the wonderful 2017 *Nutcracker* musicians who have shared something about themselves for our Facebook orchestra campaign! Go to our [facebook page](#) to find out more about them.

The Nutcracker

Friday, Dec 15 at 8 pm
Saturday, Dec 16 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm
Sunday, Dec 17 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
All performances with live orchestra!

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

Purchase early for best seat selection!

Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets online



Music Director Pamela Martin conducting the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Orchestra

IT TAKES HOURS OF HARD WORK TO MAKE THIS LOOK EASY

As you know, our dancers are working hard in rehearsals for the upcoming production of “The Nutcracker.” We appreciate their dedication and also appreciate the support that their parents and families provide during this busy time. We hope they enjoy the path to performance.



The 2016 *Waltz of the Flowers* featuring 24 brightly-hued Flowers gathered around the Dewdrop Fairy, above.

Below, a sneak peek into the rehearsal studio, where Snowflakes are learning their choreography. Snowflakes is the most challenging of all the corps de ballet sections in “The Nutcracker,” requiring advanced pointe technique, solid allegro skills, all-around technical and musical precision, as well as exceptional spatial awareness and conformity.



LEVEL III GIRLS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THEIR FIRST PAIR OF POINTE SHOES

The Level III class is taking a minimum of seven weekly ballet classes: 5 Ballet Technique and 2 Preparatory Pointe, to build the strength, flexibility, stamina and mental maturity required for pointework. Pointework requires a major amount of technical understanding and achievement. At The Studio, we carefully prepare each student for this new milestone and we require much more than other studios do. Individual students and different classes progress at different rates. Ideally, the entire class progresses together and goes on pointe together. This, however, is not always the case.

Most important to achieving success en pointe is being prepared. We take this very seriously. Dancers who studied hard through the summer are already more prepared than others. Those who take extra classes are building the strength and stamina they need. Let's not forget flexibility. The foot and ankle joints must be flexible enough to be able to get up over the box of



the pointe shoe. A foot that is not flexible enough will have problems throughout pointework, as extra strain will be placed on tendons which will try to help keep the foot en pointe. Go to our informational **Demystifying Pointework** article in a previous newsletter to learn more about pointe shoes and the requirements for achieving them. In the meantime, keep stretching your feet, ladies!

The Studio will be closed
Thursday-Saturday,
November 23-25 for Thanksgiving

There will be "Nutcracker" rehearsals for
ALL ROLES Sunday, November 26

Go to our **Calendar Page** for complete
SCBT and academy
calendar

Parent Observation Week November 6 -11

Parents and friends are invited to view classes in session all week long. Come see why your dancer is tired when they leave The Studio!

Please arrive on time and plan to stay for the entire class. If not possible, then please enter and exit quietly so as not to disrupt the work being done in the studio. Conversing with the students during class is prohibited. The use of recording devices of ANY KIND is also strictly prohibited as they distract the dancers.

Please supervise young children.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Our dancers are working hard and making good progress
~ We hope you can make it!



Right, last year's Level VI girls present a tendu croisé devant, and above take a break from an excruciating photo session. Camaraderie is a big part of being a ballet student. All in-studio photos on these pages by Jim Schwartz.



SUGAR PLUM FAIRY *Melody Mennite*

We are thrilled to welcome our beautiful graduate Melody Mennite back to our stage for this December's production of "The Nutcracker." Melody is a principal dancer with Houston Ballet and will be partnered this year by her fellow Houston principal Ian Casady. Melody left home to join Houston Ballet II at 16, having already finished high school, most of which she completed through Cabrillo College. Melody and her SCBT partner Lucien Postlewaite both transferred their high school classes to Cabrillo so they could be available for rehearsals during the day. SCBT presented its first "Swan

Lake Act II" featuring the dynamic duo. Lucien went on to become a principal dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, later moving to Europe to dance with Les Ballet de Monte-Carlo. He returned to PNB this season.

Melody and Lucien starred in our "Nutcracker" together, rejoining forces after graduating and embarking on their own stellar careers. Melody has returned several times with different partners from Houston Ballet and Ballet West. We look forward to meeting her current partner Ian Casady and watching our beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy dance once again on our stage. Welcome home, Melody!



Melody Mennite in SCBT performances of "The Nutcracker" with partners Joseph Walsh (top row) and Lucien Postlewaite (left and right).

Bottom left with Joseph Walsh: the girl could always balance!

Photos by Lynne Owen and Bari Lee.

Go to Melody's page at houstonballet.org for photos and videos.

