

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 | Wendy Butler SCBT Administrator

Welcome to our 2023-2024 Season!
Fall Session begins Sept 5

The upcoming year is Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre's 40th season, and the 47th year in business for The Studio, School of Classical Ballet. Our two organizations have worked together to train dancers and present performances for all these years.

While composing this newsletter, many of our students are in the studio working hard in our Intensive Programs. We are lucky to have brought in guest instructors Erin Robbins, Linda Lock and Christopher Pratorius-Gomez, who compliment our own fantastic faculty to bring our students Ballet, Pointe/Mens, Variations, Jazz, Music for Dancers, Preparatory Pointe, Brazilian Dance and Floor Barre. Much progress is being made by these hard-working students!

Many of our upper level students have studied away from home this summer at a variety of programs: the Royal Ballet School in London, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre in New York City, Boston Ballet and the University of Utah and Brenau University.

We wish our recent graduates the best in their endeavors this coming year, and their paths are a testament to hard work and a plethora of skills gained by SCBT company membership. Starting their professional ballet careers are Emily Moran at Tulsa Ballet and Perle Schwager at Sacramento Ballet. Entering dance programs are Lucy Rudnick at Muhlenberg College, Sam Kaplan at SUNY/Purchase and Madison Griffith at UC Santa Barbara. Entering college to study sciences and creative writing, respectively, are Katelin Halstead at UC Davis and Otto Redlien at Emory University. We know that many of our younger students are inspired by these fine young people, and there are many more diligent and talented SCBT dancers coming up through the ranks.

We are ready and excited to start this new season with all of our amazing students and their families!
See page 3 for some helpful hints for new ballet parents.

SCBT 2022-2023 Performance Calendar

"The Nutcracker" with live orchestra Dec 9 and 10
Santa Cruz Symphony Concerts Feb 23 and 25
Spring In Concert performances April 20 and 21
The Ballet Alliance Festival in Spokane May 6-9
Emerging Choreography Showcase May 18
Plus other opportunities as they arise throughout the year

Congratulations
to our 2023-2024 Company dancers!

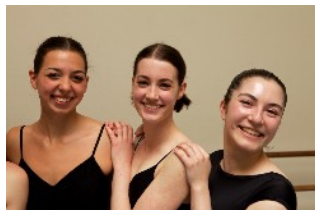
THE STUDIO AND SCBT ~ PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE
and, though intertwined, are two different organizations:

SCBT is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors; The Studio is a business owned and directed by Diane Cypher. The Studio employs faculty and offers classes; SCBT hires choreographers, musicians and stage crew and presents performances.

If you are calling to let us know you will not be in class
Please call The Studio phone: (831) 479-1600



Our programs foster camaraderie and growth



Spring 2023 Big Buddies/Little Buddies

Quick Links to important information to our website:

[Calendar](#)

[Class Schedule](#)

[Dress Code](#)

[Rehearsal Information](#)

[Enrollment](#)

The Nutcracker

Open Auditions Saturday, Sept 9

1:00-2:30 pm Dancers age 11 and up
This age group is Open to the Public
Registration 1-1:30 pm. Audition 1:30-2:30 pm

2:00-3:30 pm Dancers age 7-10 years
This age group is Open to the Public
Registration 2-2:30 pm. Audition 2:30-3:30 pm

3:00-4:00 pm Dancers age 4-6 years
Must be enrolled at The Studio to qualify in this age group
Registration 3-3:30 pm. Audition 3:30-4:00 pm

\$30 Audition Fee per dancer. Dancers must be punctual to qualify for the audition. Girls bring pointe shoes if you dance en pointe. Auditions are held at The Studio, School of Classical Ballet. Participation fee: \$495 for dancers age 7 and up; \$395 for dancers age 4-6 years. Scholarship opportunities are available. Parent participation is required.

Go to SCBT.ORG Auditions Page for more information.

be a part of a favorite holiday tradition!



All Performances with
LIVE ORCHESTRA
at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10



Photos by Steve DiBartolomeo and Lynne Owen.
Top: Music Director Pamela Martin conducting the orchestra, last year's Clara, Waltz of the Flowers leads, a Ginger Snap with Mother Ginger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PERLE SCHWAGER who is embarking on her professional career as a member of the second company with Sacramento Ballet this season!

We encourage all new parents to read this informative article from a 2021 newsletter with tips on how to help your dancer succeed. Click **HERE** to read.

ADDITIONALLY: HOW TO HELP YOUR DANCER SUCCEED

We are busy, and many of us are running back and forth, from work to home to soccer practice to tutoring, and all of this in the traffic of our county which has gotten worse and worse. We have two income families, which means everyone is busy all the time. We have increased expectations for our offspring, in all avenues: academically and in extra curricular activities. The pressure for them to shine and succeed sometimes causes them anxiety, and living through the Covid pandemic highlighted that suffering from anxiety does not help anyone succeed in anything.

We are happy to say that the professional ballet training you have enlisted in by joining The Studio and SCBT will help your dancer to learn and master many valuable skills, not just ballet technique. They will learn time management and organization. They will learn empathy for their peers, how to work together as a group and how to cooperate with others. They will learn to take instructions and multi-task as they execute the results. They will learn how to focus on large-scale concepts and the most minute details. They will learn how to focus.... period. They will learn respect, of their instructors, of their fellow classmates, of their audience, and — most importantly — of themselves. They will learn the value of striving for long-term goals and will reap the benefits of succeeding in that pursuit. Beauty and grace! They will learn those skills as well as all of the many physical and mental skills which are nurtured in classical ballet training.

Ballet dancers are indeed as physically fit as the top athletes in any field, and they make it look effortless at the same time. This road is not an easy one; there are no shortcuts. But if your dancer sticks with it, the rewards will be mighty. We look forward to helping our students on their way to becoming accomplished dancers!

Additional helpful information in the next column



Quick Reference Guide for parents: How can I help my dancer today, now?

Be as prompt as possible when picking them up from school and driving them to The Studio for class or rehearsal. *Easier said than done* with schedules and traffic, we know.

If you or the carpool is running late, **stay calm**. We cannot control everything. Staying composed will help your dancer not panic and will help them have an easier entry to class.

If possible, **arriving 10-15 minutes before class starts** will help your dancer adjust and be prepared. Take little ones to the restroom. Put ballet shoes on, change clothes if they are not already dressed. **Taking a few minutes to mentally shift from school to ballet will help your dancer have a better class.** They need time to switch gears. Dancers in Levels I and up will be taught how to physically prepare as well: stretches and exercises that will help them prepare for class, will get both their mind and body ready for what's to come next. Intermediate and Advanced dancers have about 30 minutes of preparation they should do, but less is okay in a pinch.

Remember the **dress code**, which is in place to help the instructors teach the students. **This includes hairdos.** By Primary, we expect hair to be in a bun away from face and neck for girls, and controlled for boys. By the age of 9 or 10, the dancer should be able to learn how to put their hair up themselves. There are several instructional videos on YouTube which are great, this good one is presented by Bloch: [Click HERE for Tutorial](#)

There are also a plethora of videos which cater to special needs: short hair, thin hair, a kid who won't sit still easily!

Worst-case scenario: you are late or don't have the right accessories to make a good bun, **a tight ponytail and a couple of hair clips will do the trick in a pinch.**

Please make sure your dancer has **cover-ups over their dancewear.** Shorts, sweat pants, t-shirt, hoodie, sweater, booties to cover ballet shoes, or sneakers and then change into ballet shoes. Dancers should NOT be out in the parking lot without coverups over their dancewear.

We are here to help you and your dancer succeed —

Welcome to our 2023-2024 Season!



Photos by Jim Schwartz. Top: Milana Beck in Pre-Ballet; Milana is currently majoring in Dance at UC Santa Barbara. Boys are ready to take on Boys Class (at right is Otto Redlien who enters college this fall, at left is Ryan Gonzalez who is currently studying law). Left: a young student changes shoes before class with quiet concentration. Above left: dancers stretching in class; many stretches taught in class can be done on your own time safely and to great effect.