

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 | Rod Caborn, SCBT Board President

Happy New Year!

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DANCERS,
VOLUNTEERS, CREW AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS
FOR MAKING THE NUTCRACKER POSSIBLE**

**The Studio opens
for 2019 on
Monday, January 7**

What a beautiful production it was this year! We are proud of all of our dancers, from the smallest Ginger Snap to our talented Senior Company. We (once again!) appreciate the esprit de corps of our Company dancers, who so selflessly covered for each other through illness. These are the life skills which will serve you forever. We could not be more proud of all of you.

We can all be inspired by our alumna Melody Mennite, who injured herself just before our performances and still danced with precision, skill and generosity. She and her partner, the exquisite Chen Wai Chan, altered their choreography to reduce the strain on her body. No one would have ever guessed she was dancing with less than her usual superhuman physique. It takes an amazing amount of strength and stamina to perform the lead roles, and our guest stars were simply stunning in every performance. When Chun Wai injured himself just before the final performance and was unable to dance, Melody's professionalism and dedication to SCBT were admirable and inspiring.

Our technical crew filled some equally superhuman shoes, as our Technical Director Terry Dunphy was unable to participate due to illness. His wife and assistant T.D. Shelby took on the job with grace and generosity and was supported by additional family members. We've long thought of them as family, and they proved it's true.

Our Music Director and Orchestra were truly in fine form. Pamela Martin and the musicians seemed more in sync and expressive than ever before. Maestro Martin's sensitivity as a dance conductor shined especially bright this year, as she responded to every minute detail of the altered Grand Pas de Deux choreography. How lucky we are to have such consummate professionals playing the classic score — they make our holiday tradition even more special.

As always, our parent volunteers perform duties before the performances and backstage that are truly meaningful in support of the production. Thank you all — we really could not produce "The Nutcracker" without each one of you.

Enjoy 2019! ~ Robert & Diane



*Clockwise from top:
Ginger Snaps and Party Girls try on their costumes.
Camaraderie begins early — these relationships forged
in rehearsal and onstage will only get stronger through
the years. Chinese soloist with Children. Mother
Ginger with her Ginger Snaps. Clara and her
nutcracker.
Performance photos by Nikki Brooks.*



Above, Bonnie Costa in "La Volonta."

Left, Rachel Schmidt in the Pas de Trois from "Swan Lake" Act I.

Below, Emily Rose and Emerson Moose in the Bluebird Pas de Deux from "The Sleeping Beauty" Act III.

Photos by Lynne Owen.



COMPANY DANCERS ARE ALREADY BACK TO WORK ON SPRING REPERTOIRE

Our Senior Company dancers started work on the upcoming spring repertoire last August, learning a new piece choreographed just for us by renown choreographer Ron Cunningham. Titled *Mosque Mirage*, the piece features a principal couple and eight corps de ballet dancers, with props! Choreographed to music with a Middle Eastern flair by Philip Glass, *Mosque Mirage* is unlike anything we've ever presented, and is a fun challenge for our dancers. Working with Mr. Cunningham was certainly an honor for us and we look forward to welcoming him back, first as the Festival Artistic Director of The Dance Alliance, and for some additional coaching on his ballet later this spring.

At the beginning of the month, our dancers will begin learning a piece by our own Robert Kelley. Each season Robert takes time to choreograph something specially formulated to show off the talents of our dancers and this year is no exception. The new piece will be shown at our Adjudication, and also at In Concert in April.

One of our favorite people in the dance world, Debra Rogo, will come to town this month to stage her beautiful *La Volonta* on our female dancers. We have presented this lovely work several times over the years and it never disappoints. To music by Felix Mendelssohn, *La Volonta* is a study in precision of the corps de ballet, featuring an exquisite use of canons.

Next month the SCBT Senior Company will add rehearsals for Philip Jerry's *Our Town*. Based on Thornton Wilder's classic play, Robert was the original "George," and has the staging rights from Philip Jerry's Foundation. 2019 will be SCBT's fourth time presenting the ballet. Mark your calendar for In Concert April 6 & 7!

Petite Company AUDITIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

REGISTRATION 1:30 AUDITION 2-3:00 PM

PARENT MEETING 3 PM

Calling all dancers age 7 and up who want to increase their skills and performance opportunities! \$30 audition fee per dancer. \$225 participation fee for the entire season. The 2019 Season includes performances at In Concert in March, Emerging Choreography Concert in June, Season Kick-Off Event in the Fall and an extension for those who are available at the Cabrillo Festival Church Street Fair in August.

So many of our company dancers and graduates started in the Petite Company! Pictured at left: Emily Rose, who danced with Grand Rapids Ballet, and Emerson Moose, who dances with the Royal Danish Ballet. As members of the Petite Company, they started building rehearsal skills and mental and physical stamina. The photograph shows Emily and Emerson dancing the Bluebird Pas de Deux from the third act of "The Sleeping Beauty" In Concert a few years ago. Other former Petite Company dancers include professional dancers Jeffrey Avila, Joshua Burnham, Bonnie Costa, Kaelyn Magee, Rachel Schmidt, Sarah Stein Eriksen, Molly Winslow Hanson, Lauryn Winterhalder ... PLUS many more who went on to college or university dance departments to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance. Get the right start and come audition for the Petite Company January 26.