



Diane Cypher, Artistic Director
2800 S Rodeo Gulch Rd, Suite C, Soquel CA 95073
A non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, tax I.D. 77-0076069
scbt.org 831.477.1606

For Immediate Release

Contact Sandy Nelson, Administrative Manager: sandy@scbt.org

Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre keeps dancing, creating and presenting new works through the pandemic

On the heels of its successful Nutcracker film *Clara's Dream*, local ballet company Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre is currently in rehearsal and performance mode for seven new original pieces. Choreographed by the pre-professional dancers, these pieces are a testament to youthful creativity. Mentored by Seattle choreographer Eva Stone throughout the creative process, these young choreographers are gaining the skills, experience and confidence to tap into their own unique creative process and command a room (or a parking lot) of their peers. The new works will be individually filmed on locations throughout Santa Cruz, from Nisene Marks State Park to the Harbor to a downtown parking garage.

The pieces are currently being assessed by a panel assembled by Artistic Director Diane Cypher: Linda Lock, principal instructor at The Studio, School of Classical Ballet (Soquel); Nicole Comella, Associate Artistic Director of State Street Ballet Young Dancers (Santa Barbara); and Debra Pearse Rogo, Artistic Director of Mid-Columbia Ballet (Tri-Cities Washington). The panel will advise which pieces should be submitted to The Ballet Alliance to further mentor the choreographers and qualify for awards. The Ballet Alliance promotes the development of emerging choreographers, and SCBT supports the cultivation of these young art-making creatives.

SCBT will present these seven original works this spring, in a virtual format yet to be determined. The Company dancers will also soon start learning and practicing excerpts from the time-honored romantic ballet "Giselle" for their artistic and technical development. SCBT is not taking a break from educating its dancers to the highest level possible. Covid can't stop us!

Go to scbt.org for information as the spring season viewing options develop.

About Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre

SCBT was formed in 1983 and is directed by Diane Cypher. SCBT presented its annual "Nutcracker" with a fully professional orchestra at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium from 2002-2019 and produced a "Nutcracker" film in 2020. SCBT is an honor member of The Ballet Alliance, an association of pre-professional companies. Many of its graduates have continued on to careers in the professional field of ballet and dance. Most importantly, SCBT develops self-discipline, work ethic, motivation and lasting physical, cognitive and artistic attributes in its dancers.

Proud member of The Ballet Alliance, an association of pre-professional companies