

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

**Congratulations to all of our dancers on a great season!**

CONGRATULATIONS to *Katelin Halstead*  
winner of the 12th annual Leslie Swaha Award



**2023 GRADUATES ARE READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD**

Some of these dancers we have watched grow for years and years. Our Artistic Director can't even remember a time before Otto Redlien was in the building. We wish these incredible young adults the best in their future endeavors!

**Madison Griffith** will attend UC Santa Barbara as a dance major

**Katelin Halstead** will attend UC Davis

**Sam Kaplan** will continue to dance at SUNY Purchase

**Otto Redlien** will attend Emory University in Georgia

**Lucy Rudnick** will continue dancing at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania

Previous graduates who trained with The Studio and danced with SCBT this season are moving toward professional careers:

**Emily Moran** has accepted a Trainee position with Tulsa Ballet and

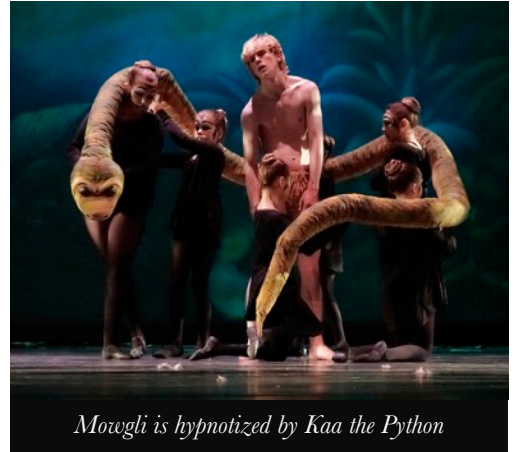
**Perle Schwager** will attend the Sacramento Ballet Summer Intensive Program, which may lead to a position in their second company.

**SCBT IN CONCERT  
PERFORMANCES WERE SO MUCH FUN!**



*Friendships are forged backstage*

The annual spring performances featured Debra Pearse Rogo's *The Jungle Book*, as well as premieres by Erin Robbins and Eva Stone, plus the classic *Black Swan Pas de Deux* and special guests All About Theater. Elaborate makeup for *Jungle Book* meant our Petite Company dancers had to be at the theater an hour ahead of time to get ready.



*Mowgli is hypnotized by Kaa the Python*

We enjoyed welcoming back alumni and former students to

participate in *The Jungle Book* as well as help out backstage during the production. A big special thanks to all the volunteers who made the production possible!



*Otto and Juliette in  
Black Swan Pas de Deux*



*Eva Stone's "Remains Nameless"*

*Photos by  
Kevin Monahan*



*Amelia Busenhart in Modern, circa 2013. Photos at right: Ruby and Boys.*

### ADVANCED LEVEL DANCERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE FLEXIBILITY EVALUATION WITH MYRA RITCHEY THIS SUMMER

At the recommendation of guest instructor Deborah Hadley, Myra has completed a dancer-centric flexibility course with Lisa Howell. When the course was offered to Ballet Alliance companies, our artistic director signed up to participate. When Diane was unable to take the course herself this spring (Festival! In Concert! Student Demo!), she enlisted Myra (Pilates background is a huge plus!) to take the course.

This is a unique opportunity to work one-on-one with Myra for an hour, get an in-depth appropriation of your flexibility in all different areas relevant to ballet, and then have Myra assign you a set of exercises to improve flexibility where you need it most. She will give you explanations and you will try the exercises in person with her so she can be sure you understand them. Your new regime can be completed on your own in preparation for and in-between classes. Flexibility is so important to ballet training, but even more so: the strength to back up increased flexibility and the understanding of all exercises recommended to you. One private session is just \$100 and worth much, much more than that to enhance your dancing for years to come.

**Private flexibility sessions are available by appointment only; contact Diane directly to schedule.**



*Bagheera in "The Jungle Book"*

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

Enroll now to train through the summer. This is the time to make significant progress toward your goals. Schedules and tuition vary by level.

### BALLET CAMPS for Young Dancers age 4-8

- June 19-23** World Dance
- June 26-30** Peter and the Wolf
- July 10-14** Tutus & Sneakers
- July 31-August 4** Nutcracker camp

Camps are Monday-Friday 10 am-12 noon  
Go to the [scbt.org](http://scbt.org) Enrollment Page for registration form



### ADVANCED FOCUS WEEKS June 12-23

Intensive ballet training for Levels V & VI (continues through Summer Programs)

### 2 week SUMMER PROGRAMS:

**June 19-30 and July 10-21**

Levels I through Level VI

### 1 week INTENSIVE PROGRAMS:

**July 24-28 and July 31-Aug 4**

featuring guest instructors Linda Lock, Erin Robbins and Chris Pratorius-Gomez

### A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Some people just always help when asked. Our community survives on the fact that we all work together to make a performance or event happen. We do have paid staff, but to keep costs down, a significant amount of volunteer work is necessary. We understand that not everyone has the time to do so. But here we would like to acknowledge those who give their time and energy over and over again. Without their generosity, we would have to raise participation fees, or charge more for tickets, or both. Thank you to these standout supporters of our work!

**Wendy Butler** is on staff for The Studio as assistant Registrar, but Wendy accomplishes much more than just helping out in the office. She spearheads events, like our recent Student Demonstration, organizing volunteers and keeping track of every little detail leading up to the event, even helping rent the truck needed for marley transportation, through getting coffee and food for the volunteers. She is an absolute gem. And she's an alumni parent! (hint, hint)

**Danny Bennett** is a Ballet Dad of the highest order. He is always on hand to video our productions, and then volunteers on marley crew or basically anything that is needed at any time, no matter how busy his own life is.

**Jake Lackey** is also on the Ballet Dad of the highest order list. He has built set pieces for productions (Giselle and Jungle Book), and also volunteers to help with marley crew as well as Load Out and Load In and Out again, usually all of those.

**SCBT Guild Co-Chairwomen and Board of Directors** are volunteers too! They volunteer their time to keep SCBT ticking by writing grants and planning fundraisers. They help out at events, they provide donations, they man the auction tables.

**Jim Schwartz** takes photos of our dancers in the studio throughout the season, and is another alumni parent.

No *Thank You* would be complete without acknowledging **Stephanie Graziani** and **Cat Heisinger** who help out throughout the season. Additional thanks to **Lauren Stephanoff**, **Sasha Lawlor** and **Abigail Cushing** for helping with Jungle Book makeup, plus all day at the downtown Kids Day event painting faces. Thank you to alumni **Lily Swan** and **Phoebe Hess** for supervising the dancers backstage at In Concert and the Student Demonstration. We love and appreciate our alumni! Many more volunteers helped with Jungle Book makeup, including our own Children's Rehearsal Director **Riley Butler**, who is always ready to volunteer for many more tasks than are required. **Colin Reed** helps with hard labor; community service is his calling. We could not put on productions without our generous volunteers!

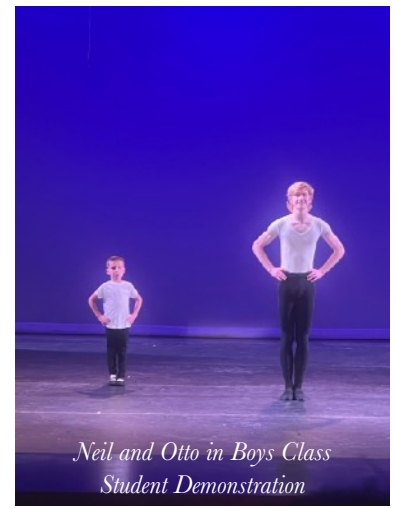


## THE STUDIO IS CLOSED MAY 26-JUNE 11

Advanced Ballet Classes will be offered Thursday, June 8 and Friday, June 9 (minimum enrollment required). Submit your Summer Enrollment now.

### PERFORMANCE FOOTAGE IS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know you can watch previous performances on our YouTube Channel? Go to our homepage and click on the link, or click [HERE](#) to view previous performances, such as *Giselle* 2022, Student Demonstration and Emerging Choreography Showcase 2022, In Concert 2023 and Student Demonstration and Emerging Choreography Showcase 2023. We started posting performance footage during the pandemic as a way to share the Emerging Choreography films made in 2020. Send the link to grandparents or family and friends who were unable to attend performances.



### IMPORTANT END-OF SUMMER AND FALL DATES

**Mid-Summer TBA** ~ Archival Costume Sale — a call for volunteers to help round up old costumes from the storage loft upstairs will be sent out this June

**Friday, August 4 ~ Early Fall Studio Student Registration**

All students who enroll by August 31 will be entered to win the Reserved Parking Space for October 2023! The winner will be announced in the September newsletter

**Saturday, August 5 ~ SCBT Senior and Junior Company Auditions** for the 2022-2023 Season (time TBA). Dancers who are away at an intensive program, please make arrangements ahead of time with Diane Cypher to audition at another date. 2022-2023 Season dancers must re-audition. Go to [Auditions Page](#) for more information.

**Monday, August 7-Friday, August 11 ~ Company Classes** may be offered in the afternoons (not required)

**Tuesday, Sept 5 ~ Studio opens for Fall**

**Saturday, Sept 9 ~ Children's Auditions for The Nutcracker**

**Sunday, Sept 10 ~ SCBT Senior Company Nutcracker Audition** 11-1:00

**Saturday, Sept 23 ~ Nutcracker Parent Meeting and Rehearsals begin** (Sat/Sun depending on role[s])

**October TBA ~ Season Kick-Off Event**

**December 8 ~ Dress/Orchestra Rehearsal for The Nutcracker** at the Civic Auditorium

**December 9 and 10 ~ The Nutcracker performances** with Live Orchestra at the Civic Auditorium

**January 2-7 ~ SCBT Senior Company rehearsals** for spring repertoire, including new piece by guest choreographer Jeffrey Gribler

**January 8 ~ Studio opens for 2023**

### SCBT 2022-2023 Season

The Nutcracker with live orchestra Dec 9/10  
Santa Cruz Symphony Concerts TBA  
Spring In Concert performances April 20/21  
The Ballet Alliance Festival in Spokane May 6-9  
Emerging Choreography Showcase May TBA

### KEEPING UP WITH OUR DANCING ALUMNI

**Principal dancer** is the highest rank a professional can attain — although some European companies have their own designations (such as the Paris Opera Ballet's Étoile, which literally means Star). SCBT and The Studio are proud to have trained dancers who have held principal dancer positions, such as **Jeff Stanton** (Pacific Northwest Ballet), **Leila Drake** (State Street Ballet), **Melody Mennite** (Houston Ballet), **Lucien Postlewaite** (Pacific Northwest Ballet and Les Ballet de Monte-Carlo), and **Lauryn Winterhalder** (Sacramento Ballet).

**Lauryn** retired from her performing career just this May. She danced with Sacramento Ballet for 13 years and is pursuing a nursing degree, which she began during Covid. She and her firefighter husband Rob intend to return to Santa Cruz for their future.

**Melody** is busy with the end of Houston Ballet's season, and at the same time, she continues to develop her choreographic career. She is currently working on a collaboration with Jonatan Lujan (remember them together in our Nutcracker?). No rest for the talented! Melody's former SCBT partner **Lucien**, also hard at work on the end of PNB's season, is an entrepreneur and continues his own home-made and well-received kombucha business The Batch. **Jeff** has been Rehearsal Director for Oregon Ballet Theatre for several years now, and also performs as a Character Artist with the company.

The Studio and SCBT are indeed proud to have trained dancers to this highest level in the field, and wish ALL OF OUR ALUMNI the best in their endeavors!