

The Studio & Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre | partners in excellence serving Santa Cruz County for over 30 years  
Diane Cypher, Artistic Director | Sandy Nelson, Administrative Manager | Rod Caborn, SCBT Board President

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DANCERS,  
VOLUNTEERS, CREW AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS  
FOR MAKING OUR 18TH YEAR PRODUCING**

# The Nutcracker

**AT THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM  
WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA POSSIBLE**

What a beautiful production! I am so proud of every dancer who participated and shone so brightly on our stage at the Civic Auditorium. This year was especially gratifying with new people stepping into artistic roles: Flora Chatwin and her amazing new choreography for many of our young dancers, Linda Lock and her years of expertise in rehearsals and backstage, my mentor Ron Cunningham's beautiful new choreography for the Waltz of the Flowers which accentuated the talents of our Senior Company female and male dancers equally. What a ride.

On top of all that, throw into the mix the return of two of our most beloved alumni, Melody Mennite and Lucien Postlewaite, dancing together once again. These two professionals epitomize what I think of as having the most satisfying and illustrious careers imaginable. They have both risen to heights in the ballet world that I personally could only imagine, dancing roles by wonderfully diverse choreographers. They are both incredible technicians, artists and actors, but the one thing that really comes across is their genuine love of the art form. Seeing the two of them dance together once again, so comfortable in their own history together — having been partners at SCBT since they were about 13 years of age — and enjoying every minute, but also sharing their gifts so genuinely and easily with the audience. They just make me smile. What amazing role models for our dancers!

A production like this truly takes a village. I am so fortunate to have Sandy Nelson, who has taken on most of the Executive Director duties, and she's nailed it. She has an attention to detail where nothing escapes. Her lieutenant Wendy Butler filled in the gaps while she was vacationing in Australia. A big Thank You to new Stage Manager Teresa Grote, who is also an SCBT alumna and called the show beautifully. Teresa and her mom Wendy have worked as backstage runners Stage Left since Teresa stopped dancing. The two of them never stopped supporting SCBT. When I needed to find a person to manage the show, I ran the idea by Technical Director Terry Dunphy and he said "Teresa, YES!" That was that. She and our awesome lighting designer Sylvie Vray made it happen. Magic! Bravo to Donna Webster for her fresh marketing designs, featuring photos of Mel and Lucien taken by Lynne Owen the last time they danced together in 2011.

No *Thank You* list would be complete without honoring our Volunteer Coordinator Meghan O'Hagan with her superhuman efforts and patience. Nor would a list be complete without thanking our superlative Music Director Pamela Martin and the 52 professional musicians that make up the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre Orchestra. And how about the amazing Michelle Maddy, who works on the costumes through the entire fall, always happy to do one more re-fit or make one more adjustment. She is truly an angel, and the costumes continue to look beautiful onstage. The stage itself and the entire backstage area run smoothly under the direction of Terry Dunphy and his wife Shelby, who have both been instrumental to the success of this production since its inception.

On top of all this, every volunteer gave their time and efforts toward this production, and these include alumni who are not dancing with us but continue to help backstage. Board members rallied to support the production. Guild ladies hosted yet another lovely reception. Thank you to **everyone** who volunteered their time and energy to make "The Nutcracker" happen. I feel the effects of our community most during a big production like this. It takes so many hands: Kitchen crew, Boutique crew, Flowers crew, Dressers, Queuers, Runners, Load Out, Load In, Load Out, Load In crews! May all of you be rewarded in heaven or with good karma or whatever it is you are into. Me, I am rewarded with an excellent production that showcased our dancers' talents to their very finest. I love these kids and their successes will continue to be my proudest moments. I hope everyone had a moment to bask in the glory of the hard work and its rewards.

With gratitude to all involved,

*Diane Cypher*



*Guest stars and SCBT alumni Melody Mennite and Lucien Postlewaite make their entrance as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier in Act II of "The Nutcracker."*  
*Photographed by Steve DiBartolomeo.*

# The Nutcracker

Photos by Steve DiBartolomeo, from top:  
the Russian Blintz in Act II, the Snow Scene, the Battle Scene.



## Happy New Year!

The Studio opens for 2020 on Monday, January 6

### CHANGE IN LEVEL I SCHEDULE

A reminder that our Level I students have a change of schedule for Saturdays, beginning in January. There will be no 10 am class for Level I. Instead, they will have class 11:30-12:30, taught by Riley Butler. Riley is a Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre and Studio alumna currently attending UC Santa Cruz. She is an excellent instructor, having completed several Teacher Training courses with Diane Cypher over the years.



## Petite Company Auditions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

REGISTRATION 1:30 PM

AUDITION 2-3:00 PM

PARENT MEETING 3:00 PM

Calling all dancers age 7 and up who want to increase their skills and performance opportunities! \$30 audition fee per dancer.

\$245 participation fee for the entire season.

The 2020 Season includes the opportunity to

perform in **The Jungle Book**, working with guest choreographer Debra Pearse Rogo!

Rehearsals will be held on weekends,

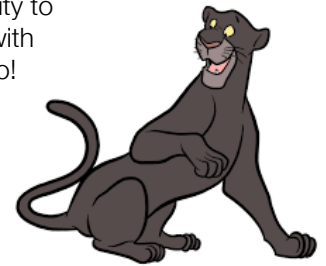
mostly Saturday afternoons. Casting

and schedule TBA. Come join this

exhilarating experience, where the

rewards of self-discipline and

camaraderie reign supreme!



### SENIOR COMPANY DANCERS PREPARE FOR THE BALLET ALLIANCE ADJUDICATION

Senior Company dancers had a short, much-deserved break over

the holiday, then returned to the studio on January 29th to

continue learning repertoire for the upcoming Ballet Alliance

Adjudication as well as In Concert. The company will present the

classic *Grand Pas Classique Hongrois*, which consists of excerpts

from the full length ballet "Raymonda." Featuring five couples, two

different casts will dance In Concert, giving every Senior Company

dancer the opportunity to grow from the challenges this classic

piece presents.

The Senior Company will also work with guest choreographer Eva Stone for a few intense days right after we ring in the new year.

She will create a new piece just for us, which will also be presented

at the Adjudication and In Concert in April. Eva is an energetic, fun

and demanding choreographer and we can't wait to see what she

will create for our dancers. She choreographs in a modern vein,

which will be a distinct change from the classical *Grand Pas*

*Classique Hongrois*. Being able to learn, perfect and perform a

wide variety of dance styles is so important to the successful

training of our dancers. We welcome Eva and her one-of-a-kind

perspective and expertise!