

CAROLINA BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS



Artistic Director Hernan Justo

Dec 1^{At} 7:30^{PM}

2^{At} 2 & 7^{PM}

3^{At} 2^{PM}



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THE NUTCRACKER

ONCE UPON A TIME IN GREENVILLE

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The libretto is adapted from E.T.A Hoffmann's story The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Choreography and Story by Hernan Justo based on the original from Marius Petipa & Lev Ivanov

Additional Choreography by Anita Pacylowski-Justo

Additional Characters from the book "Mice on Main" by Linda Lowe Kelly

Artistic Director Hernan Justo

Associate Artistic Director Anita Pacylowski-Justo

Ballet Répétiteur/Stage Manager Erica Sturman

Lighting Designer Michael Lowery after original

design by Ceili Hesselgrave

Costume Coordinator Mary AllyeB Purtle

It is Christmas Eve and Clara and her brother, Fritz, are excited for the festivities. Family and friends arrive in Greenville and admire the sights and sounds of Main Street. Clara's magician uncle, Herr Drosselmeyer, arrives and brings gifts for everyone. For Clara, he has a very special nutcracker. The celebration continues as all enjoy an evening of laughter and dancing. As one of the maids joins in, she bonks Herr Drosselmeyer on the head in her excitement and he is knocked unconscious. A magical star enters to guide Herr Drosselmeyer on a beautiful journey of Clara's future. After all the guests have left, a lonely maid tidies up the room. She screams in fright as mice invade from every direction. The nutcracker doll, now life-sized, comes to save the day with an army of soldiers. A fierce battle between the mice and soldiers ensues. The Mouse King has the Nutcracker cornered, but Clara strikes the rodent and saves her nutcracker who is transformed into a handsome prince. Herr Drosselmeyer's journey continues with visions of beautiful angels and the well-known Mice on Main. The city's rich culture appears through Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Candy dancers as well. Herr Drosselmeyer's glimpse into Clara's future happens upon her Debutante Ball complete with elegant waltzing dancers. The loving uncle has watched his precious Clara's coming of age and finds himself on her wedding day. The grown-up Clara is a beautiful bride and marries her dashing Nutcracker Cavalier. The magical wedding is one only dreams are made of. Or, is it just a dream?

THE CAST - ACT I

Herr Drosselmeyer (Clara's Uncle)	Brandon Penn
Clara at 9 years old	Claire George*, Molly Weiss^
Fritz (Clara's Brother)	Luke Sawyer^, Samuel Wells*
Mrs. Stahlbaum (Clara's Mother)	Paola Valiente
Mr. Stahlbaum (Clara's Father)	Vaughn Newman
Maids	Eve Grunenwald^, Sofia Justo, Sullivan Ivey*, Gabrielle Moore, Mikayla Morrison
Reverend and Mrs. Ellison Capers	Graydon Tomlinson, Andy Yee (Friday), Aly Warner
Mayor and Mrs. W.W. Gilreath	Symon Stevens, Caroline Warner
Admiral and Mrs. Nathanael Greene	William Cheves, Sydney Jordan
Doctor and Mrs. James Hayne	David Wesselman, Jordan Shannon
Mother Ginger at the Party	Jenna Larocque
Clara's Friends	Gianna Andrews*, Christyana Boyd, Weathers Cheves^ Kaylanora Edwards, Aislyn Fraser

^performing Friday evening, Saturday matinee

*performing Saturday evening, Sunday matinee

THE CAST - ACT I



Party Girls.....Kassidi Collins, Jocelyn Grunenwald, Madelyn Peace
McKenna Walker, Maddie Weaver

Party Boys.....Daniel Alix, Aaron Couillard-Dix, Aiden Couillard-Dix, Andrew Larocque
Luke Sawyer*, Samuel Wells^

Star.....Kelsey White

Angels.....McClain Bragdon, Ta'eelah Chinnery, Paloma Favela, Taylor Herlong
Lennon Jones, Chaudnessey Martin, Brett McGee, Emmalin Reid, Caroline Searcy

Arabian Toy.....Grace Webster

Candy Toys.....Frances Reinhardt, Millie Smith

Chinese Toy.....Evelyn Wohlers

Spanish Toys.....Nora Briggs, Alexis Gamble

Little Ballerina Doll.....Emerson Huckabay

Ballerina Dolls.....Eve Buckingham, Sullivan Ivey^, Olivia Stephens, Hadley Wingate*

Military Doll.....Meghan Loman

Birds Act I.....Janie Adams, Raelyn Chisom, Emery Clark, Brynlee Walker

Battle Mice.....Caroline Binder, Eleanor Blank, Nora Bundren, Zula Caldwell, Ellie George
Quinn Graves, Maggie Head, Ella Heegard, Lindsey Latta, Mary Ward McGee, Isabelle McGregor
Caroline Pringle, Elizabeth Pritchard, Libby Brown Segrest, Chloe Wells, Aria Wolfe

Nutcracker.....Camilo Cardenas-Herrera^, Martin Justo*

Mouse King.....Miguel Reyes Jimenez

Clara at 13 years old.....Caroline Thomasson*, Hadley Wingate^

Soldier Captain Lead.....Rebekah Miller

Battle Soldiers.....Ann Marie Bragdon, Gully Caldwell, Molly Goldy, Hannah Cutbrod
Julia Hutchison, Karis Kinsey, Vivienne Mayni, Cece Mercurio, Lillian Miller, Justine Morris
Elliott Pruitt, Martha Reinhardt, Madeline B. Weaver, Isabella Wohlers

Clara at 16 years old.....Meghan Loman^, Kiera Morgan*

Wind.....Keira Collins, Claire Foster, Scarlett Portanova, Laney Stevens, Anna Wells

Snow Queen.....Meghan Loman*, Gabrielle Moore^

Snow Princesses.....Sofia Justo, Jordan Shannon

Snowflakes.....Eve Buckingham, Serene Carmack, Eve Grunenwald, Sullivan Ivey, Sydney Jordan
Jenna Larocque, Isabella Ludkowski, Mikayla Morrison, Caroline Thomasson^
Madeline Vande Velde, Aly Warner, Caroline Warner, Hadley Wingate*

^performing Friday evening, Saturday matinee

*performing Saturday evening, Sunday matinee

THE CAST - ACT II



Little Angels.....Alexa Alexandru-Padgett[^], Charlotte Briskin[^], Cecelia Cushwa[^]
Elin Blake Davis[^], Emilia Diaz Calle^{*}, Charlotte Dillard^{*}, Audrey Gamber[^], Maggie Gilbert^{*}
Ellerbe Grove^{*}, Ella Johnson[^], Rhodes Lanier[^], Charlee Beth Lawson^{*}, Harper McKeown^{*}
CJ Nefzger^{*}, Olivia Petillo[^], Anna Drayton Pruitt^{*}, Ava Sammons^{*}, Luci Banks Sieber[^]
Sutton Turner[^], Catalina Valentin-Cardona[^]

Birds Act II.....Indiana Florence, Emma Kate Lanford, Lincoln Nefzger, Sabella Schindler

Mice on Main Lead.....Aubrey Houle

Mice on Main.....Caroline Binder, Zula Caldwell, Ellie George, Ella Heegard
Isabelle McGregor, Libby Brown Segrest, Chloe Wells

Spanish Soloist.....Sofia Justo[^], Caroline Warner^{*}

Spanish Demi-soloists.....Eve Buckingham, Mikayla Morrison

Arabian Lead.....Gabrielle Moore[^], Jordan Shannon^{*}

Arabian Maidens.....Serene Carmack^{*}, Keira Collins, Madeline Vande Velde[^]

Chinese Soloist.....Miguel Reyes Jimenez

Chinese Fans.....Gianna Andrews, Weathers Cheves

Chinese Ribbons.....Nora Burns, Kate George, Campbell Howard, Joanna Smith

Chinese Umbrellas.....Ella Gamble, Juliette Portanova

Candy Soloist.....Eve Grunenwald^{*}, Caroline Warner[^]

Candy Corps.....Claire George[^], Salie Hutchison, Scarlett Portanova, Olivia Stephens
Laney Stevens, Molly Weiss^{*}

Mother Ginger.....Aubrey Houle

Mother Ginger's Court.....Serendy Harper, Emerson Huckabay, Vivian Mercurio, Ava Weaver

Drosselmeyer's Court.....Daniel Alix, Aaron Couillard-Dix, Luke Sawyer, Samuel Wells

Clara's Friends at the Ball.....Eve Buckingham, Caroline Thomasson^{*}, Hadley Wingate[^]

Debutantes at the Ball.....Serene Carmack[^], Claire Foster, Sydney Jordan, Jenna Larocque
Isabella Ludkowski, Mikayla Morrison, Madeline Vande Velde^{*}, Aly Warner[^]
Caroline Warner^{*}, Anna Wells

Bridesmaids.....Eve Grunenwald[^], Sullivan Ivey, Sofia Justo^{*}, Meghan Loman^{*}
Jordan Shannon[^], Caroline Thomasson[^], Aly Warner^{*}

Clara, the Bride.....Gabrielle Moore^{*}, Kiera Morgan[^]

Clara's Groom.....Camilo Cardenas-Herrera^{*}, Martin Justo[^]

[^]performing Friday evening, Saturday matinee

^{*}performing Saturday evening, Sunday matinee

ARTISTIC TEAM



Hernan Justo was invited to become Artistic Director of Carolina Ballet Theatre by its founder Barbara Selvy in 2000. He has been involved in all aspects of the company: from teaching classes, coaching, teaching after school dance and outreach classes to creating original works. His repertoire for the company is from classical to contemporary. Choreographing full length ballets such as Hunchback of Notre Dame to his Award-winning choreography Pulling the Strings which toured internationally with the company. Hernan has also brought world renowned choreographers such as Alonzo King and Dwight Rhoden. His training came from the national ballet school of Buenos Aires, Argentina the Instituton Superior de Arte Teatro Colón. He joined the

ballet Estable del Teatro Colón in 1982 and then Ballet del Teatro Argentino de la Plata two years later. In 1988, his career took him to the Ballet de Santiago, Chile. After three years, Hernan joined the Ballet Clásico de Cámara in Caracas, Venezuela, under the direction of Nina Novak, formerly prima ballerina of Les Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Hernan arrived in the United States as a principal dancer with the Charlotte Ballet in 1994 under the artistic direction of the late Salvatore Aiello and later, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Patricia McBride and Jerri Kumery all artists affiliated with New York City Ballet. He added to his repertoire several Balanchine masterpieces for which he was critically acclaimed by Dance Magazine and The New York Times. Hernan and his wife, Anita Pacylowski, co-direct and teach at DanceArts Greenville.



Anita Pacylowski-Justo is a native of Columbia, MD. Her formal ballet training came from the Washington School of Ballet in Washington, D.C. She is a Princess Grace Award in Dance, National Young Arts Level 1 winner, and received the Presidential Scholar in the Arts in Dance award by the White House Commission in the Arts. She also was a finalist at the New York International Ballet Competition, and semi-finalist at the Prix de Lausanne competition in Lausanne, Switzerland. She's been nominated for the coveted Benois de la Danse Award, "the Oscars" of the Ballet world. Her professional career started in The Washington Ballet under the direction of Mary Day. While there, her international touring was to Russia,

Thailand, Singapore, France, England and Spain. Highlights include performing the Grand Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker at the Kennedy Center for President Clinton and the First Lady, and performing at the White House Holiday Tea Party. She then moved to Charlotte Ballet as a principal dancer where she met her husband, Hernan Justo. After 7 years with that company she joined her husband as artistic leadership of CBT. She is also the co-artistic director of DanceArts Greenville and is currently on staff at the Fine Arts Center.



Erica Sturman is a native of Springfield, Illinois, where she began dancing at the age of 3 under direction of Grace Nanavatti. She joined the Springfield Ballet Company in 1999 under the direction of Julie Ratz and performed soloist roles in Snow Queen, The Nutcracker and Romeo and Juliet. In 2005, Erica moved to Greenville, SC to start her professional career with CBT. She has performed in many leading roles with CBT. Erica also had the privilege of working with Alonzo King's "Map" and Dwight Roden's "Beetlejuice". Erica has been a dance instructor at DAG since 2007.

EXPLORATION AWAITS

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PRINCIPAL DANCERS



Meghan Loman was born in Springfield, Illinois, Meghan has been dancing with CBT for over a decade. She began her training with Grace Luttrell Nanavati at Dance Arts Studio in Springfield and began performing with the Springfield Ballet Company under Julianne Ratz in 1999. In 2001, Meghan placed in the top ten of the Youth American Grand Prix Chicago Semi- Finals and went on to compete in the NYC Finals. Meghan has been privileged to work with some amazing choreographers such as; Dwight Rhoden, Adam Sage, Robert Philander Valentine, Mark Diamond, Marcus Herman Payne, Julie Tice, and Krenley Guzman. She has performed original works created by Martha Graham, Alivin Alely,

Dwight Rhoden, and Alonzo King. She has enjoyed sharing the stage with fellow dancers Herman and Erica Cornejo, Jeanette Delgado, Skylar Brandt and Daniel Ulbrich.



Martin Justo is from Caracas, Venezuela, and began dancing in 1999. He trained with Quinte Ballet School in Canada and School of Carolina Ballet Theatre. He has toured throughout Uruguay with CBT and has recently traveled and performed as a guest in Fujinomia, Japan, dancing pas de deux from Ciselle, La Bayadere, and Swan Lake. Some of his signature roles are the charming young Nutcracker Prince in Hernan Justo's The Nutcracker, the Mad Scientist in Madeline Jazz's Super Heroes, and the male soloist in A Tango for Angelina. Martin performed works by renowned contemporary choreographers such as Dwight Rhoden's Beatle Juice, and Alonzo King's Map.



Kiera Morgan is in her third year with CBT. After graduating high school, she moved from Florida to Charlotte, NC where she began with Charlotte Ballet. Within her first year, she had opportunities to perform works by Patricia McBride, Mark Diamond and Lazlo Berdo. She performed with the second company doing Lecture Demonstrations. Her most remarkable memory was rehearsing and teaching choreography of "Scherzo" by Mark Diamond to the main company. In 2019, Kiera began with Richmond Ballet. She danced works including 'Theme and Variations' by George Balanchine, set by Jerri Kumery and Paul Boos. This past season she had the opportunity to perform "The Waiting Room" by Salvatore Aiello set and staged by Jerri Kumery and Mia Cunningham.



Camilo Cardenas-Herrera began dancing at the age of ten Colombia, South America at the Colombian Institute for Classical Ballet. He obtained a dance degree from Ballet-Centered, secondary and higher-level institutions where he was educated by ballet masters Gloria Castro, Helena Cala, and Maria Helena Ilorente as well as the teacher from the National Ballet of Cuba. Upon graduation, he joined the Conservatorio de Valencia in Spain where he studied for two years. Camilo also received a full scholarship in 2012 with Miami City Ballet and in 2011 he participated in the International Festival of Valencia, Spain. Camilo has performed professionally with the National Ballet of Colombia, Atlantic City Ballet,

Montgomery Ballet and the Hinsdale Ballet Theatre in Chicago. Camilo was a principal dancer with Columbia City Ballet for 5 years, danced with Columbia Classical Ballet as well as Pensacola Ballet and now is excited to dance with CBT as a principal dancer.

COMPANY DANCERS



Gabrielle Moore trained and performed with Carolina Ballet Theatre from 2005-2016. After which, she trained with Charlotte Ballet until 2019. This will be her fourth season with Carolina Ballet Theatre. Her hometown is Greenville, South Carolina; however, she previously danced with the Roanoke Ballet Theater in Virginia. Her favorite roles have been dancing Russian Girl in Serenade under the direction of Patricia McBride as well as the Arabian Coffee in Nutcracker.



Sofia Justo is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina where she earned her degree in Dance Education. While in school and under the direction of Dr. Stephanie Millings, she was a member of the USC Dance Company. She has worked with dance masters such as Alonzo King, Dwight Rhoden and Laszlo Berdo. Her favorite show she performed with CBT was Snow White as and her favorite piece was Merceditas from Tangofusion by Hernan Justo.



Marja' Quaqua was born and raised in Greenville, SC with her journey in dance beginning at age 3. She has been successful at Youth America Grand Prix competitions ranking in the Top 3 in semi-finals granting her a chance to go to the finals. In April 2023, Marja' placed Top 12 in her YAGP trio. She has traveled along the east coast as a guest artist, more specifically for Ballet in The City (a non-profit organization). This is her first year as a professional with CBT.



Jordan Ann Shannon is a passionate dancer who trained at Armes with Rebecca Lee and Greenville Ballet for 8 years. In 2020, she joined DanceArts Greenville and now dances professionally with CBT. Influenced by Hernan and Anita, she excels both on stage and in a marketing degree at Greenville Tech. Additionally, she ventured into film with Debbie Allen and honed her skills at the Fine Arts Center under Gina Bunts. Inspiring others with her artistry, Jordan Ann embodies the power of pursuing one's dreams.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCERS



Aubrey Houle is from Apex, NC. She began her training at Infinity Ballet. In May 2023, she graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography. Aubrey is Greenville County School District's ARMES central site Dance Instructor and DanceArts Greenville's DAYCo Instructor. In addition, she is an apprentice for North Carolina-based dance company OM Grown Dancers. Aubrey is also CBT's community cast rehearsal assistant.



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GUEST ARTISTS



Brandon Penn was born and raised in Richmond, VA. At the age of 10, he began his dance training at the Pine Camp Cultural Arts Center where he studied with Annette Holt, Rodney Williams and Willie Hinton learning a variety of styles. He later enrolled into the School of Richmond Ballet where he studied under Igor Antanov, Malcolm Burn, and more. After spending three years at the Richmond Ballet Mr. Penn was accepted as a trainee of the company whilst completing his senior year. After graduating, Brandon spent one year at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Purchase College Conservatory for Dance, studying under Larry Clark, Taryn Russell, and Ted Kivitt and others. After spending a year at SUNY, Penn was offered a position with Atlanta Ballet 2. After two years there, Brandon was offered a company position with the Columbia City Ballet. Later, after much experience and repertory under his belt, Brandon accepted a principal contract with the Fort Wayne Ballet where he just finished his second season. Since, he has taken upon a freelance career and guested along the east coast and further. He would like to immensely thank his family for all of their love, support and words of wisdom.



Vaughn Newman is a professional dancer, choreographer, and founder of Vaughn Newman Dance, Greenville's first professional black dance company. VND opened its doors in 2018, curating black dance in Upstate SC. Vaughn began dancing at William Penn Arts Charter (Philadelphia, PA) and continued training at Freedom Theater, PHILADANCO, & New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL. While in Miami, he performed with Momentum Dance Company and Brazz Dance Theater before relocating to Upstate SC in 2009, where he partnered with local studios and theaters before creating VND. In January 2022, South Arts recognized Vaughn as one of the "Emerging Leaders of Color" because of his commitment to the

arts. This past August, he traveled to Ghana, Africa, to train with the "WASSA Pan African Dance Company" for a month-long West African Dance and Drum tour. Entering its 5th Anniversary season, the VND organization continues its moving storytelling by fusing spirituality, life experiences, human encounters, spoken word, and thought-provoking dance for higher consciousness through the arts.

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Emily George & Sydney Mercurio

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



We recognize the spirit of volunteers by honoring the gentleman for whom this award is named. **Kenneth Valko**, dance dad of Caitlin Valko, was a community champion and tireless volunteer. Ken was a constant side-stage volunteer throughout the 15 years of Caitlin's ballet training. He handcrafted many of the sets still used today by Carolina Ballet Theatre. We honor his legacy of volunteerism each year with the presentation of this award on opening night of The Nutcracker: Once Upon a Time in Greenville. The support of volunteers is a vital function of Carolina Ballet Theatre and we

appreciate the long-term, intensive, and extraordinary work of this year's recipient. This year, we are pleased to present **Emily George** with the 2023 Kenneth Valko Volunteer of the Year Award. Emily has volunteered countless hours from being a backstage helper extraordinaire to serving as Guild President. Emily's gracious smile, steadfast support, and diplomatic demeanor are invaluable gifts she has shared with the CBT family. In her role as Guild President, Emily has been the quiet architect of many best practices and processes that will sustain the organization for years to come. She is the proud mom of three community cast dancers: Kate, Claire, and Ellie George. Carolina Ballet Theatre is forever grateful to Emily for all her efforts. Thank you, Emily, for all you do to support Carolina Ballet Theatre.

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