



BODY LANGUAGE STUDIO PRESENTS

15 Years Of *The Nutcracker*

**Friday, December 20th
Saturday, December 21st**

2024

**Foster Performing Arts Center
Tukwila, WA**

**Original Score by
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky**



The Story Of The Nutcracker

Our Nutcracker ballet is inspired by the story "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice," written by E.T.A. Hoffman and set to a musical score composed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Tchaikovsky was a famous Russian composer in the late 1800s, who also composed *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty* Ballets.

The Party Scene

It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house, and they are hosting their annual Christmas party for their relatives and friends. Their children, Clara and Fritz, are dancing and playing with their cousins and guests.

Godfather Drosselmeyer arrives. He is a skilled clock and toymaker, always full of surprises. The children are given gifts, and Drosselmeyer presents special presents to Clara and Fritz. Although his gift to Fritz is admired by all of Fritz's friends, he gives Clara a beautiful Nutcracker that everyone is enamored by.

As the evening grows late, the friends depart and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to the Christmas tree to check on him, falling asleep with him in her arms.

The Battle Scene

As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The room fills with an army of mice, led by the fierce Mouse King. The Nutcracker awakens, becoming life-size, and leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the mice. The Mouse King corners the Nutcracker and battles him.

Clara makes a final daring charge at the Mouse King, hitting him with her slipper. The Mouse King drops to the floor and the mice scamper away, carrying off their leader's lifeless body.

The Story Of The Nutcracker Continued

The Enchanted Pine Forest

Drosselmeyer turns The Nutcracker into a Prince and takes Clara on a journey to the Enchanted Pine Forest, a magical forest wonderland where they are welcomed by the Snow Queen and dancing snowflakes.

The Kingdom of Sweets

Drosselmeyer then escorts Clara to the Kingdom of Sweets, where she is greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, Sugar Rose, Ribbon Candy, and Arch Angel. Clara tells the kingdom about The Nutcracker's daring battle with the Mouse King and the Sugar Plum Fairy crowns Clara for her bravery. In celebration, Clara is then entertained by an array of dances.

The Dream Ends

Clara reluctantly awakens from her dream and finds herself once again with her beloved Nutcracker.



ACT I

(In order of appearance)

The Workshop:

Drosselmeyer - Michael Peters

Harlequin Doll - Raeghan Verstraete

Ballerina Doll - Fiona Oyer

Soldier Doll - Kyriel Khvaliun



The Party:

Clara - Taylor Thain

Fritz - Tori Thain

Maid - Grace Peters

Mr. & Mrs. Stahlbaum - Brad Kirkpatrick &
Lynelle Vandenbos

Aunts, Uncles, & Friends - Steinvor Agustsdottir,
Rose Phal, Kirsty Verstraete, Stephen Verstraete,
Orville Zharoff*

Clara's Best Friends - Gertie Engstrom
& Norah Russell

Clara's Cousins - Emerson Adams
& Mirren Postlewait

Fritz' Cousins & Friends - Winnie Bafus, Abigail
Bussey, Lily Haraldsdottir, Victoria Phal



ACT I Continued
(In order of appearance)

The Battle:

Mice - Eliza Hines, Aubree Ruiz,
Ellis Short, Kiseki Van

Mouse King - Noah Ranola

Rats - Malaya Aparis, Raiden Lynch,
Victoria Phal

Soldiers - Keanu Aparis, Benny Clarkson,
Maddox Thompson

Generals - Winnie Bafus, Kristjan Haraldsson,
Noah Ruiz, Genki Van

The Nutcracker - Jerome Aparis



Enchanted Pine Forest:

Snow Queen - Connor Pudlicki

Snow Crystal - Lily Vogt

Snowflakes - Josie Engstrom, Fiona Oyer,
Norah Russell, Maansi Samadarshi,

15-minute Intermission



ACT II
(In order of appearance)

Kingdom of Sweets:

Arch Angel - Josie Engstrom

Angels - Abigail Bussey, Anna Condiotty,
Gabriella Hines, Isabella Palanchuk

Ribbon Candy - Taylor Bligh

Sugar Rose - Norah Russell

Sugar Plum Fairy - Bizzie Adams*

Chocolate - Maansi Samadarshi

Peacocks - Lynelle Vandenbos & Orville Zharoff*

Peachicks - Bridget Hovind, Fiona Oyer,
Tori Thain, Hailey Wand

Tea - Morgan Larson

Shepherdesses - Amelie Diaz & Gertie Engstrom

Lambs - Anna Condiotty, Lily Haraldsdottir,
Gabriella Hines, Aubree Ruiz

Candy Canes - Jerome Aparis, Keanu Aparis,
Malaya Aparis, Noah Ranola

**Guest Artists*



ACT II Continued
(In order of appearance)

Miss Ginger - Hailey Wand
Gingersnaps - Zoey Purchase, Nikki Ruiz,
Dylan Son, Kiseki Van

Dew Drop - Lily Vogt
Dahlias - Connor Pudlicki & Maansi Samadarshi
Peonies - Amelie Diaz, Gertie Engstrom,
Olivia Hobbs, Raeghan Verstraete
Rose Buds - Emerson Adams & Mirren Postlewait



Understudies:

Clara - Norah Russell
Ribbon Candy - Tori Thain
Sugar Plum Fairy - Lily Vogt
Miss Ginger - Bridget Hovind
Dew Drop - Connor Pudlicki



Guest Artist



Bizzie Adams began her dance training in Seattle, Washington, at The British Dancing Academy, where she studied ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary styles. She completed the RAD examinations with distinction, earning recognition at showcases and conventions. Biz attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), where she obtained a double major in Dance Production and Management as well as Dance Performance and Choreography. During her time at UNLV, she studied and trained under renowned choreographers from companies such as Christopher Huggins, Cirque du Soleil artists such as Alex Yonkovich, members of the Martha Graham Company, and dancers from Nevada Ballet Theatre. Biz concentrated on multimedia dance, expanding her expertise by working on larger-scale multimedia dance productions. She designed lighting, digital projections, and videography for numerous choreographic works across the West Coast.

Before graduating in December 2022 with recognition as an "Outstanding Graduating Senior" from the UNLV Department of Dance, Biz joined the State Street Ballet Company Trainee program. While at State Street Ballet, she toured to exciting locations including all along the west coast of California to Japan. Biz graduated with a knowledge Business Administration studies and a certification in Athletic Pilates under Dolly Kelepecz. She is currently a company Dancer with Joshua Grant's Dance Theatre Seattle and teaches as an instructor with their partner training school Dance Conservatory Seattle.

Guest Artist



Orville Zharoff has been a practitioner and teacher of various partner movement styles for a long time. Including Lindy Hop, Blues, Traditional Ballroom, Cheerleading, Acro, and General Circus to name some of the major modalities. He has performed private parties and seasonal shows with Animate Objects, The Cabiri, Synapse Circus, Sanca, Venardo Circus, and even Teatro Zinzani. Sharing his passion and insights on movement through coaching is a genuine pleasure. Seeing people's "Ah Ha!" moments when they learn new bits or ways of making old bits new again is part of what makes teaching so much fun. Learn, grow, share, repeat.

Faculty Performer



Mr. Jerome, a.k.a. B-boy Jeromeskee, is our Co-Director and founder of Body Rock Breaking, our championship-breaking training program. He started B-boying in 1996 and has been performing and competing ever since. He is a member of several competitive B-boy groups – 2x world champion Massive Monkees, DVS Crew, and what was the Seattle SuperSonics Boom Squad. Massive Monkees is the 1st American crew to win the title of R-16 B-Boy Master World Champions in Korea.

Jeromeskee has participated in, judged, and won numerous B-boy events on almost every continent. He was a featured performer on Dancing With The Stars, the MTV Video Music Awards and Europe Music Awards, competed on MTV's America's Best Dance Crew, and was one of the coaches on MTV's "MADE: I Want To Be A B-boy." He is part of the team that choreographed and appeared in the award-winning music video, "Downtown," for Macklemore and Ryan Lewis and choreographed for and performed live with Macklemore, all around the world. He has danced in commercials and on TV, including The Ellen Show, Jimmy Kimmel Live!, The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, and The Today Show.

Mr. Jerome is passionate about inspiring the next generation, passing along his wisdom, and instilling a growth mindset in all of his students. He also recently founded the non-profit organization, Breaking Boundaries.

Faculty Performer



Noah Ranola began his journey at BLS as a student at just 10 years old, and the studio has been his home ever since, playing a crucial role in shaping who he is today. Now, as both a teacher and professional dancer, Noah brings his passion full circle to inspire the next generation.

A protégé of Mr. Jerome, Noah is one of the youngest members ever to join the world-renowned Massive Monkees crew. He actively competes in battles across North America, showcasing his skills and love for breaking. In addition to his dance career, Noah is a professional hairstylist and works with Breaking Boundaries to help grow and strengthen the breaking community.

Faculty Performer



Lynelle Vandebos is a seasoned dance instructor and a student favorite. With more than 20 years of choreography and teaching experience, she has competed and performed regionally and nationally in jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, ballroom, and more. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes technique, flexibility, performance, and teamwork. Also a fitness professional, Lynelle makes an effort to introduce her students to Pilates and yoga and instill the importance of creating healthy habits for the mind and body at any age.

She has trained in partner acrobatics for 10 years and is certified through Acrobatics Arts. She strives to continue to be a student forever to improve her craft as a dancer and a teacher to share her passion with the next generation. Lynelle is also a nationally award-winning high school dance team coach, and dance/drill judge for WIAA, with several routines placing nationally since 2014. She was awarded WA Dance/Drill Judge of the Year in 2022 and WA Dance Coach of the Year in 2024. She has also been a professional choreographer for Tribe 99 since 2018, traveling across the country setting competitive dance routines in various styles for school programs from middle school through the collegiate level.

THE NUTCRACKER 2024

Producer & Director
Lea Aparis

Tech Director
Jeremy Williams

Set Manager
Brad Kirkpatrick



Choreography & Staging

Jerome Aparis, Lea Aparis, Chelsea Hays, Melissa Krienke, Lynelle Vandenbos, Samantha Weissbach, Orville Zharoff

Costume Embellishments & Alterations

Chelsea Hays, Tamara Shilley, Lynelle Vandenbos, Kristy Verstraete

Arch Angel Parachute Skirt: Mackenzie Blue Tapia

Videography
Staria Grubb

Photography
Christopher Fotos & Team, Christine Takamura

Special thanks to Kaelyn Adams, Steinvor Agustsdottir, Ali Bligh, Christine Clarkson, Carrie Engstrom, Haraldur Haraldsson, Diana Hays, Amy Johnston, Nelson Kim, Brad Kirkpatrick, Noah Ranola, Tina Ruiz, Michael Son, Kristy Verstraete, Stephen Verstraete, Jeremy Williams, and MANY other wonderful volunteers.

This production would not be possible without you!

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HIDDEN POINT



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Manager - *Seattle Magazine*

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