



THE NUTCRACKER
CHAMPAIGN URBANA BALLET

Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 7:30pm

Friday, December 1, 2023, at 7:30pm

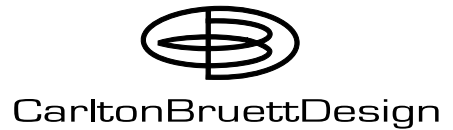
Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 2:00pm and 6:00pm

Tryon Festival Theatre

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THE ACT OF GIVING

PROGRAM

THE NUTCRACKER

A ballet in two acts after the story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E. T. A. Hoffmann

Music by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography by Deanna Doty Warfel

Presented by

Champaign Urbana Ballet

Deanna Doty Warfel, Artistic Director

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Mike Ross, Director

The Nutcracker

Overture

ACT I

The Party

The Battle

The Land of Snow

20-minute intermission

ACT II

The Land of Sweets

A classical ballet in two acts, *The Nutcracker* is based on E. T. A. Hoffmann's tale *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816). Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky created the music for the ballet of this charming story in close collaboration with Marius Petipa, the renowned choreographer who, due to illness, turned the project over to his assistant, Lev Ivanov. *The Nutcracker* was first performed in 1892.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

On Christmas Eve, the Stahlbaum household prepares for a grand holiday party. Clara, her brother Fritz, and their parents have invited guests to dance and celebrate. The arrival of Clara's eccentric godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, brings a sudden air of surprise to the party. Drosselmeyer gathers the children and presents each with a special gift, including a nutcracker for Fritz and two magical life-sized dolls for Clara. While the guests are enamored with all Drosselmeyer's creations, Clara is only interested in the nutcracker. A playful Fritz steals the key to the life-sized dolls, and his mischievous behavior causes them to dance frenetically and frighten the guests. Afraid that the party has gone awry, Mrs. Stahlbaum calls for the adults to assemble in the dining room for a holiday feast. No longer under the watchful eye of his parents, Fritz and his friends disrupt the girls at play, causing the nutcracker doll to break in two. Drosselmeyer reappears and, to console his goddaughter, repairs the broken doll before leaving in a dash. After a final dance, the guests depart and the family retires for the night.

Just before midnight, Clara steals down to the eerily darkened room to find her nutcracker. She falls asleep, and the events from the day slip into her dreams. The Rat Queen and her legions of rodents appear, threatening Clara. As the nightmarish taunting escalates, Drosselmeyer shows his power by casting the rodents and furniture away and making the Christmas tree grow to enormous heights. The Nutcracker, grown to life size yet trapped in toy form, appears with his army of soldiers and cavalry at his side. A fierce battle with the rats and mice ensues. The Rat Queen and the Nutcracker fall injured, despite Clara's bravery in defending

the Nutcracker. Ice fairies appear and revive the fallen Nutcracker, who comes to life in his true princely form. The Nutcracker and Clara begin their journey to his homeland and dance among snowflakes in the Land of Snow before they are magically carried away.

ACT II

Clara and the Nutcracker travel across a lemonade sea toward his homeland, the Land of Sweets, where they are greeted warmly by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Clara recounts her heroic tale, after which the Sugar Plum Fairy presents Clara with a magnificent crown and flavorful dances of foreign confections, including the beautiful waltz of flowers, before the entire court joins in a final gavotte. Drosselmeyer reappears, and Clara's reverie begins to fade as she is magically returned to the comforts of home and the memory of a fantastic dream.

CAST

ACT I: THE PARTY

Drosselmeyer

Rob Rypka*
Kevin Burnside^

Clara

Daisy Grace Lewis*
Claudia Lundsgaard^

Fritz

Fletcher Sowers

Mrs. Stahlbaum

Lauren Frost

Mr. Stahlbaum

Brett Feddersen

Party Mothers

Annika Drasgow
Cate Feinen*
Rosy Odum
Mia Sherman
Lydia Stevens^
Ava Teague

Party Fathers

Lorenzo Pantano
Matt Davis*
Adam Klavohn^
Oscar Lewis*
Ryan Lippert^
Fernando Mascarenhas*
Dan Ogwal*
Wes Shunk^
Greg Underhill^

Party Girls

Nora Croop
Emma Lan*
Kate Lippert
Hazel Powell*
Rachel Riha
Jeannette Saenz^
Adalyn Thomann^
Elise Yang

Party Boys

Connor Croop
Jackson Ridlon
Tate Sowers*
Seth Stevens
DJ Trinkle-Hague^

Boy Doll

Leo Lewis*
Oscar Lewis^

Girl Doll

Emma Rypka*
Cate Feinen^

Maid

Eleanor Kraatz*
Elizabeth Seong^

Footman

Sam Drasgow

ACT I: THE BATTLE

Nutcracker

Wes Shunk*
Leo Lewis^

Rat Queen

Samantha Walden

Rats

Kevin Burnside*
Sam Drasgow
Brett Feddersen
Leo Lewis*
Oscar Lewis
Lorenzo Pantano
Rob Rypka^
Wes Shunk^
Fletcher Sowers

Mice

Amelia Bice*
Maggie Bowman^
Brieonna Bryant^
Macy Catterson*
Mattison Carter^
Amelia Duong^
Hazel Sanchez Faivre^
Olivia Gazzola^
Lena Golparvar^
Olivia Horton*
Graham Jensen*
Quinn Klavohn*
Aria Lewin^
Beatriz Mascarenhas*
Shay Morley-Cunningham^
Hazel Mossberger^
Felix Pollard*
Soleil Saenz*
Paul Schneider*
Ainsley Stevenson*
Clara Stefanski^

*denotes dancers performing in the evenings on December 1, 2, and 3

^denotes dancers performing in the evening on November 30 and matinees on December 2 and 3

DJ Trinkle-Hague*
Ila Trout^
Beatrice Wysocki*

Cavalry

Nora Anderson*
Mia Beeton
Lenora Donohue
Channon Goodrum^
Irene Kim*
Jett Lewin*
Ruby Pollard*
Sameena Raj-Underhill^
Eleanor Rypka^
Emma Tong ^

Captains

Connor Croop
Jackson Ridlon
Seth Stevens

Soldiers

Addie Beasley
Clover Canas^
Olivine Collins^
Alaina Davis
Audrey Goldstein*
Barrett Jurkowski^
Helen Kim
Nina Lokshin^
Gabriela MacKay
Marina Mascarenhas*
Ellery Messer
Aniea Pelote*
Ronan Raj-Underhill
Sebastian Ridlon
Lydia Ruud^
Tate Sowers
Lucia Stefanski^
Rebecca Stevens*
Olivia Swanson*
Isabel Tanner-Lane

Adila Taylor*
Avery Trout

ACT I: THE LAND OF SNOW

Ice Fairies

Cate Feinen
Eleanor Kraatz
Janie Lee
Emma Rypka
Ava Teague
Grace Williams-Kim

Snowflakes

Shanley Davis
Annika Drasgow
Irene Kim
Jett Lewin^
Belle Lewis
Daisy Grace Lewis^
Claudia Lundsgaard*
Victoria Mahaffey
Rosy Odum
Janaki Raj-Underhill
Sameena Raj-Underhill*
Christina Rao
Lydia Stevens
Emma Tong

ACT II: THE LAND OF SWEETS

Lemonade Sprites

Shanley Davis
Annika Drasgow
Eleanor Kraatz
Janie Lee
Daisy Grace Lewis^
Claudia Lundsgaard*
Victoria Mahaffey
Janaki Raj-Underhill
Emma Rypka*

Lydia Stevens
Ava Teague
Grace Williams-Kim^

First Line

Jett Lewin
Belle Lewis
Christina Rao
Sameena Raj-Underhill

Lead Herald

Fletcher Sowers

Heralds

Connor Croop
Barrett Jurkowski
Jackson Ridlon
Sebastian Ridlon
Seth Stevens

Sugar Plum Fairy

Emma Rypka^
Grace Williams-Kim*

Cavalier

Oscar Lewis*
Wes Shunk^

Spanish Dancers

Irene Kim
Emma Tong

Chinese Butterfly

Cate Feinen

Chinese Dragon

Alexandra Warwick

Dragon Legs

Addie Beasley
Alaina Davis^
Helen Kim
Nina Lokshin
Gabriela MacKay*

Hazel Powell
Jeannette Saenz
Lucia Stefanski^
Isabel Tanner-Lane*
Avery Trout

Arabian Princess

Ava Teague

Arabian Prince

Lorenzo Pantano

Arabian Bearers

Brett Feddersen
Adam Klavohn
Dan Ogwal
Greg Underhill

Arabian Harem

Nora Anderson*
Mia Beeton
Channon Goodrum^
Rosy Odum
Ruby Pollard*
Eleanor Rypka^
Mia Sherman
Samantha Walden

Ribbon Candy

Leo Lewis*
Sam Drasgow^
Janaki Raj-Underhill^
Lydia Stevens*

with Boys

Connor Croop
Lenora Donohue
Jackson Ridlon
Sebastian Ridlon
Fletcher Sowers
Seth Stevens

with Girls

Nora Croop
Emma Lan

Kate Lippert
Rachel Riha
Adalyn Thomann
Elise Yang

Dairy Queen

Lauren Frost

Cat

Elizabeth Seong

Dutch Dairy

Adele

Miriam Schneider*
Ava Kolakowski^

Betsy

Elodee Gunderson*
Caroline Ruud^

Brandy

Taylyn Foote*
Laila Vance^

Brooke

Catie Beasley*
Ellie Nguyen^

Gemini

Lilly Vance*
Lillian Golparvar^

Moonboy

Vera Wang*
Amelia Conrad^

Pasta

Eleanor Anderson Bliss*
Leonor Lemus^

Reese

Samantha Scharf*
Aaliyah Ross^

Saturn

Mila Martin*
Iris Wilson^

Venus

Penelope Muse*
Mia Drake^

Rose Queen

Janie Lee* and Kevin Burnside*
Eleanor Kraatz^ and Oscar
Lewis^

Rose Buds

Shanley Davis*
Annika Drasgow*
Taylor Feddersen^
Victoria Mahaffey^

Flowers

Shanley Davis^
Cate Feinen
Irene Kim
Eleanor Kraatz*
Janie Lee^
Jett Lewin*
Belle Lewis
Daisy Grace Lewis^
Claudia Lundsgaard*
Victoria Mahaffey*
Rosy Odum
Janaki Raj-Underhill
Sameena Raj-Underhill^
Emma Rypka*
Christina Rao
Mia Sherman
Lydia Stevens
Ava Teague
Emma Tong
Samantha Walden
Grace Williams-Kim^

PROFILES

COMPANY ARTISTS



Kevin Burnside (Soloist) returns in his 12th season with CU Ballet. As a soloist, Burnside's repertoire includes *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections from *La Bayadère* and several productions of *The Nutcracker*. Burnside

studies with Deanna Doty Warfel at Champaign Ballet Academy and is a former dance major at the University of Illinois, where he danced in several roles and was a member of a nationally-ranked competitive dance team. He is the co-owner of I-Power School of Gymnastics, where he serves as head coach.



Janie Lee (Contracted Artist) began her ballet journey at Champaign Urbana Ballet in 2015 as a trainee and was promoted to senior company in 2018. Her repertoire includes *Swan Lake*; *The Little Mermaid*; *Cinderella*; selections from *La Bayadère*;

Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*; *Ice Fairy*, *Clara*, and *Sugar Plum Fairy* in *The Nutcracker*. In addition to her role at CU Ballet as assistant to the artistic director, Lee is a ballet instructor at Champaign Ballet Academy. A freshman at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign majoring in speech and hearing science, Lee hopes to pursue a career working with children as a speech language pathologist.



Oscar Allerton Lewis (Contracted Artist) has been dancing with Champaign Ballet Academy since 2009. He's performed with Champaign Urbana Ballet in an abundance of roles, starting out in *The Nutcracker* as a Polichinelle,

Mouse, *Soldier*, and growing up to dance the roles of *Fritz*, *The Nutcracker Prince*, and *Arabian Prince*. Some of Lewis' favorite roles in other productions include *The Sleeping Beauty's* *Blue Bird* and *Swan Lake's* *Jester*. Lewis has been teaching/assisting ballet classes since middle school and enjoys working with all age groups to inspire their imaginations and talents. In 2023, he directed Champaign Urbana Ballet's original student production *Star Wars: Trials of the Force*. Lewis loves the strength, art, and athleticism ballet brings to the studio classroom and the stage, and wishes to continue dancing and teaching for many years to come.

ALUMNI DANCERS

We are delighted to welcome back many talented CUB alumni who are performing on stage and filling major roles off stage.

Claire Daly joined Champaign Ballet Academy in 2000 and performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet productions from 2003 to 2011 and in 2014, dancing in several roles, including *Clara* and *Sugarplum Fairy* in *The Nutcracker*, *Aurora* and *Bluebird* in *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swanhilda* in *Coppélia*, and *Pas de Trois* in *Paquita*. She attended the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory summer intensive training along with intensives

taught by Nurlan Abougaliev. Daly holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from Lesley University, and her creative collaboration with CU Ballet has resulted in two books and both web and print publications. She appreciates the opportunity to combine her love of ballet with photography and is happy to be back in hometown of Champaign where she works as an artist.

Taylor Feddersen trained with Champaign Ballet Academy for 13 years and performed as a company dancer with Champaign Urbana Ballet 2008–16 and 2020–22. Feddersen’s repertoire with CU Ballet includes *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum Fairy), *The Little Mermaid* (Sea Witch), *Swan Lake* (Odile), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Lilac Fairy), *Cinderella*, and *Coppélia* as well as making costumes for *The Little Mermaid*. From 2016–2020 while attending the University of Michigan, Feddersen performed in *The Nutcracker* with Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre and Ballet Detroit, dancing in the roles of Mrs. Stahlbaum and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Upon graduating from the University of Michigan and returning to Champaign, she was a soloist with CU Ballet for the 2021–22 season and has been an instructor at CBA, the official school of Champaign Urbana Ballet. Feddersen currently lives in Seattle and is employed by Microsoft as a software engineer.

Lauren Frost trained with Champaign Ballet Academy for nine years. She performed as a company dancer with Champaign Urbana Ballet from 2011–2020, dancing as a soloist for the 2019–2020 season. Frost’s repertoire with CU Ballet includes Clara, Sugarplum Fairy, Rose Queen, Arabian Princess, Ice Fairy, Spanish, and Rose Bud in *The Nutcracker*; Odile in *Swan Lake*; Lilac Fairy and the Queen in *The Sleeping Beauty*; Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*; a Friend in *Coppélia*; and she danced the role of Gamzatti

in *La Bayadère*. In 2014, Frost began teaching at Champaign Ballet Academy, and in 2018, she joined the staff of CU Ballet as assistant to the artistic director. A graduate of Parkland College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois, Frost serves the public as a deputy with the Champaign County Sheriff’s Department.

Gina Modica was among the CU Ballet’s first group of company dancers, performing from 1999–2003 in various ballets including *Pas de Quatre*, *La Bayadère*, and *Arensky Variations*. She currently serves as president of the CU Ballet Board of Directors in addition to her backstage production assistance. Modica is employed in the employed in the System office at the University of Illinois.

Alexandra Warwick performed with Champaign Urbana Ballet from 2001–2010, dancing in ten productions of *The Nutcracker* and numerous spring ballets. During her six seasons as a senior company dancer, Warwick danced the roles of Clara and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Swanhilda in *Coppélia*, and the title role in CU Ballet’s premiere of *Cinderella* in 2009. She also served as children’s rehearsal assistant with the company from 2006–2010. After studying and teaching in Iowa, Eswatini, and Italy, Warwick returned to Champaign in 2019 to pursue graduate studies in bilingual education at the University of Illinois and obtained a master’s of education this past May. She currently teaches drama at the Campus Middle School for Girls and serves as a lead instructor for a local pod school.

DANCERS

Annika Drasgow is a sophomore at Urbana High School and a third-year company member. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy

under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for ten years. Drasgow has performed in eight of CU Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Little Mermaid*, and selections from *Coppélia* and *Giselle*.

Samuel Drasgow is a senior at Urbana High School. He is in his first year of training at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. A first-year senior company member, Drasgow has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty* and two productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Shanley Davis is a sophomore at Central High School. She is in her fifth year of training at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. A second-year senior company member, Davis has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *Sleeping Beauty*, selections from *Giselle*, and three productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Brett Feddersen has appeared in over 27 productions with CU Ballet. His previous credits include *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. He is a senior research programmer with the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cate Feinen is a junior at University Laboratory High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for nine years. A fourth-year company member, Feinen has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections of *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, *The Little Mermaid*, and seven performances of *The Nutcracker*.

Eleanor Kraatz is a senior at University Laboratory High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for 12 years. A fifth-year company member, Kraatz has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *The Little Mermaid*, and selections from *Giselle*. She has also performed in 11 performances of *The Nutcracker*.

Irene Kim is a freshman at University Laboratory High School. She has been a company member for three years, and has performed in selections from *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and three productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Daisy Grace Lewis is a sophomore at Central High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel since age three. A third-year senior company member, Lewis has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of *Swan Lake*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, selections from *Giselle*, and nine performances of *The Nutcracker*.

Leo Lewis is a senior at Central High School and has trained under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel at Champaign Ballet Academy for 10 years. He has performed in CU Ballet productions of *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. Leo enjoys the athletic challenge and artistic beauty of ballet.

Claudia Lundsgaard is a sophomore at Centennial High School and has danced at Champaign Ballet Academy since age three. She is training under Deanna Doty Warfel and attended the 2023 University of Illinois Dance Summer Intensive. Lundsgaard is a third-year company member and has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, selections from *Giselle*, and nine productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Victoria Mahaffey is an eighth grader at Monticello Middle School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for eight years. A first-year senior company member, Mahaffey attended the 2023 Ballet Chicago summer intensive program and performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Little Mermaid*, selections from *Giselle* and *Coppélia* as well as five productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Rosy Odum is a senior at Mahomet-Seymour High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for 10 years. A senior company member, Odum has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections from *Coppélia*, and nine performances of *The Nutcracker*.

Lorenzo Pantano is a freshman at Northwestern University studying political science. He has been dancing since age three, and began training at Champaign Ballet Academy under Tobey Martinez and Deanna Doty Warfel at age seven. He has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Cinderella*.

Janaki Raj-Underhill is a sophomore at Centennial High School and has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy for ten years under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. She is a third-year senior company member. She has attended a summer intensive at Ruth Page Chicago International Dance Academy. She has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *Coppélia*, and 11 productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Christina Rao is an eighth grader at the Salo Academy. She has been dancing for 11 years. She is in her seventh year of training under Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy. A first-year senior company member, Rao has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and seven productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Emma Rypka is a senior at Academy High School, and has been dancing since the age of three. She currently trains under Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy. She's attended summer intensives at Louisville Ballet and Kansas City Ballet, as well as multiple workshops with the Virtual Ballet Collective and Ballet Chicago. Rypka is a fifth-year senior company member with CU Ballet and has performed in *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *The Little Mermaid*, selections from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, and 12 productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Rob Rypka is a character artist performing in his seventh season with CU Ballet. He has previously appeared in CU Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Elizabeth Seong is a sophomore at Central High school and has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy for five years under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. As a third-year senior company member, she has performed in *The Nutcracker*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and selections from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*.

Mia Sherman is a sophomore at Centennial High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy for six years under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors.

A senior company member, she has performed in productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake* and seven productions of *The Nutcracker*.

William Shunk is a junior at Central High School. He has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel for the last four years and attended the 2022 and 2023 Louisville Ballet Summer Intensive. A third-year company member, Shunk has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Little Mermaid*, and selections from *Cinderella*, *Coppélia*, and *Giselle*.

Lydia Stevens is a sophomore at Central High School. This is her third year of training at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. As a second-year senior company member, she has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Ava Teague is a junior at Central High School. She is in her seventh year of training at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and other guest instructors. A six-year company member, Teague has performed in CU Ballet productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, selections from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Emma Tong is a freshman at University Laboratory High School. She has been training at Champaign Ballet Academy for four years under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors. A second-year company member, she has performed in *The Little Mermaid*, selections from *Giselle*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and three productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Samantha Walden is a sophomore at Urbana High School and a second-year senior company member. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors for nine years. Walden has performed in Champaign-Urbana Ballet's productions of *The Little Mermaid*, selections from *Giselle* and *La Bayadère*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and seven productions of *The Nutcracker*.

Grace Williams-Kim is a senior at University Laboratory High School. She has been dancing for 11 years. She has trained under the direction of Deanna Doty Warfel and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy for the past nine years and has also attended the Cincinnati Ballet summer intensive. A fifth-year senior company member, she has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*.

DIRECTORS AND DESIGNERS

Deanna Doty Warfel (Artistic Director and Choreographer) was born in Chicago, Illinois, to ballet dancer Joan Marley Doty and graphic designer/photographer David Doty. She began her training at the Evanston School of Ballet and Ellis-Du Boulay in Chicago. At age 16, she moved to train and subsequently dance under Harvey Hysell of New Orleans Ballet. Doty Warfel continued her career with Robert Ivy Ballet in South Carolina, with Lexington Ballet in Kentucky, and as a guest artist with Ballet Alaska, Mississippi Ballet, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

Throughout her years dancing, Doty Warfel enjoyed many opportunities to teach and continued to do so when she moved to Champaign. In 1998, she opened Champaign Ballet Academy, and, in the fall of that same

year, she founded Champaign Urbana Ballet and continues to serve as its artistic director. Although most of her students train in ballet while pursuing academic excellence at regional schools, her instruction is credited for preparing others for professional careers in ballet, including Devon Teuscher of American Ballet Theatre and Kate Hosier of National Ballet of Canada.

Doty Warfel describes her motivation in this way: "For 26 years, I've dedicated myself to the establishment of a nationally recognized school and company right here in Champaign. It's an honor and a privilege to make my living as an artist and teacher, and I feel lucky to be able to do it in a community like this. My hope is to be able to give back to our ballet families, and community, as much as they have given to me."

Andy Warfel (Production Manager/Scenic Designer) holds degrees in scenic design and art direction for theatre, film and television from the University of Illinois and New York University, and has designed sets for professional theatrical productions including *Dream: The Johnny Mercer Musical* on Broadway and two national tours of *Footloose The Musical*, as well as numerous concerts such as Mariah Carey's *Butterfly* and *Rainbow* global tours, and television shows including *The Queen Latifah Show*, along with many retail, corporate, and consumer-activation events and environments around the world. His collaboration with CU Ballet began over twenty years ago, designing early productions of *The Nutcracker*, and has grown to include designs for *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Little Mermaid*, as well as a particularly acute fondness for the artistic director, who luckily agreed to become his wife last New Year's Eve.

Jamie K. Fuller (Stage Manager) is a freelance stage manager in dance, theatre, and opera. Originally from Henry, Illinois, Jamie earned her

MFA in stage management from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She has worked with CU Ballet since 2014, stage managing many years of *The Nutcracker* as well as the company's spring productions including *The Little Mermaid* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Other favorite stage management credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), *Elektra* (Minnesota Opera), and *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Children's Theatre Company). www.jamiekfuller.com

Kevin Gawley (Lighting Designer) has designed lights for CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Coppélia*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Gawley earned a BFA and an MFA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his MBA from DePaul University. His freelance work has been seen at the Lifeline Theatre, where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of *Jane Eyre* and the After Dark Award for his design of *Strong Poison*; the Organic; Porchlight; Theatre on the Lake; Metropolis; StoreFront; Loyola University Chicago; Revels Chicago; Midwest Jewish; and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. He taught at Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire before joining the faculty at University of Louisville as Associate Professor, Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer.

Tracy McCabe (Production and Choreography Assistant) brings decades of ballet training and theater experience to bear in support of our production. A former board member for Champaign Urbana Ballet and Springfield Ballet Company, McCabe has staged theatrical sections of CU Ballet's productions for over a decade, including the Battle Scene for *The Nutcracker*. He also conceived and choreographed CU Ballet's *Cinderella*. McCabe is a senior administrator at the University of Chicago.

Cory Rodeheaver (Production Designer) has been working as a freelance scenic designer for the past 19 years designing productions in theatre, musical theatre, opera, and dance. During that time, Rodeheaver also worked as a technical director and as an assistant professor of theatre at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Beyond the world of theatre, Cory has worked both as the senior exhibit designer and art director at Taylor Studios Inc. designing award winning museum exhibits and themed environments across the country for nine years. Currently, Rodeheaver is employed as a designer with the Spectrum Design Group based in Champaign, Illinois. He holds a MFA in scenic design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Direction

Deanna Doty Warfel

Music

Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky

Choreography

Deanna Doty Warfel

Production Manager/Scenic Designer

Andy Warfel

Production Assistant/Choreographer

Tracy McCabe

Administration

Kay Greene

Production Design

Cory Rodeheaver

Lighting Design

Kevin Gawley

Lighting Design Assistant

Alyssa Charlesworth

Media Projections

Alec LaBau

Stage Management

Jamie Fuller

Master Electrician

Jeffrey Hannah

Costume Conceptualization

Deanna Doty Warfel

Production Assistant

Gina Modica

Costume Manager

Erin Rypka

Head Fitter

Sally Kim

Costume Leads

Denise Seif

Rene Shunk

Kim Walden

Additional Costuming

The late Anne de Velder

John Dayger

Prop Design

Kim Cochran

John Odum

Props Master

Oscar Lewis

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Erin Rypka, Costume Shop Manager
Sally Kim, Head Fitter
Oscar Lewis, Props Master
Rob Rypka, Sound/Music Editor
Janie Lee, Student Intern, Assistant to the Artistic Director
Zoey Rypka, Student Intern, Administrative Assistant

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Champaign Urbana Ballet was formed in 1998 to promote classical and contemporary ballet, to offer training and performance opportunities to talented youth, and to enrich and involve the community through the art of dance. Under the artistic direction of Deanna Doty Warfel, founder, the company has diversified its repertory and earned a reputation in the dance community as a superb training ground for pre-professional classical dancers. Through outreach programs, Champaign Urbana Ballet exposes children to the history and beauty of ballet. Champaign Urbana Ballet is sponsored in part by the generous support of the Illinois Arts Council Agency, corporations, businesses, and individuals.

Champaign Urbana Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* each December and a full ballet each spring, including traditional works such as *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Paquita*, and *Le Corsaire*, as well as newly choreographed pieces including *The Little Mermaid*, *Cinderella*, *Arensky Variations*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and selections from *La Bayadère*. The 2023–2024 season marks the company's 26th and includes this production of *The Nutcracker*; *Swan Lake*, coming to the Virginia Theatre on May 3 and 4, 2024; and a student production at the Harold and Jean Miner Theatre at Parkland College on June 15, 2024.



DANCERS

COMPANY ARTISTS

Kevin Burnside, Soloist
Janie Lee
Oscar Lewis

Lorenzo Pantano
Quincy Payton
Janaki Raj-Underhill
Christina Rao
Emma Rypka
Elizabeth Seong
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Sameena Raj-Underhill
Fletcher Sowers
Channon Goodrum
Eleanor Rypka

Ellery Messer
Hazel Powell
Rachel Riha
Jeannette Saenz
Tate Sowers
Seth Stevens
Isabel Tanner-Lane
Elise Yang

COMPANY DANCERS

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Samuel Drasgow
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Leo Lewis
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Victoria Mahaffey
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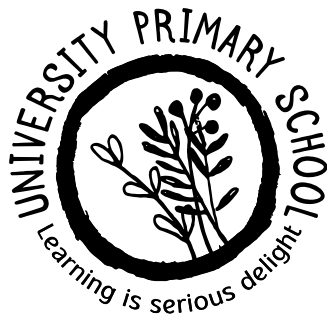


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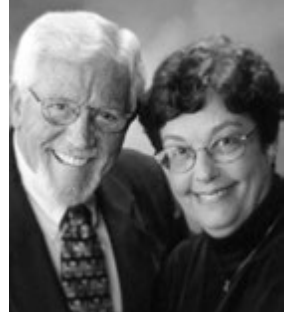
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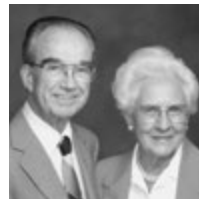
EMILY GILLESPIE
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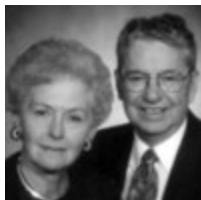
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RICHARD NOEL
April 1997



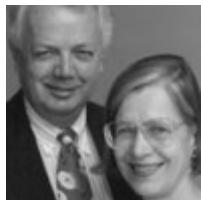
JAMES W. ARMSEY
(1917-2008)
BETH L. ARMSEY
(1918-2019)
February 1998



LOIS KENT
(1912-1999)
LOUIS KENT
(1914-1994)
October 2000



JUNE SEITZINGER
(1928-2020)
GROVER SEITZINGER
(1925-2019)
September 2001



RICHARD MERRITT
(1933-2005)
ANNA MERRITT
November 2006



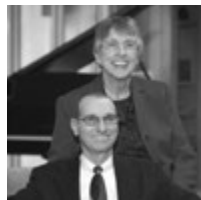
JOHN PFEFFER
(1935-2017)
ALICE PFEFFER
November 2006



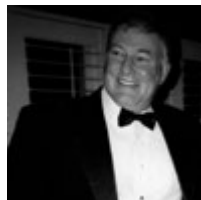
ANONYMOUS
November 2006



LINDA M. MILLS
(1940-2006)
October 2007



JUDITH LIEBMAN
(1936-2023)
JON LIEBMAN
January 2008



MICHAEL CARRAGHER
(1946-2009)
September 2008



VIRGINIA R. IVENS
(1922-2008)
February 2009

THE SUSAN SARGEANT MCDONALD ENDOWED FUND FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING
Suzi was the founder/ developer of the Krannert Center Youth Series
July 2010



MISAHO & RICHARD BERLIN
October 2010



**DIANA & WARD
MCDONALD**
March 2011



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MICETICH**
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JO ANN TRISLER
(1946-2010)
November 2011



LEA GIESELMAN
(1932-2014)
BOB GIESELMAN
(1932-2015)
April 2013



**JULIE & NATHAN
GUNN**
April 2014



MICHAEL SWINDLE
April 2014



ANONYMOUS
November 2015



LINDA WEINER
(1944-2021)
BARRY WEINER
February 2017



**ANNE MISCHAKOFF
HEILES & WILLIAM
HEILES**
May 2017



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QUISENBERRY**
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DALE STEFFENSEN
(1922-2018)
**MARGARET
STEFFENSEN**
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BURT SWANSON
(1939-2020)
IRIS SWANSON
December 2017



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ENGLAND**
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& FAMILY**
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KYLE ROBESON
(1929-2021)



**JAMES R. FRAME
& CANDACE PENN
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April 2019



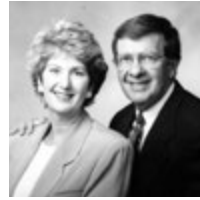
**MICHAEL &
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**VICTOR FELDMAN
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JUDITH FELDMAN
(1938-2021)**

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(1937-2022)

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The Illinois Arts Council Agency provides general programming support to ensure that audiences of all ages have direct access to world-class theatre, dance, and music.

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The Augustine Foundation provides continued major support for ELLNORA | The Guitar Festival.



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STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Student Sustainability Committee provided funding for the Krannert Center Audiences Lighting Retrofit Project, which continues to increase energy efficiency, decrease labor requirements, and improve safety conditions.



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The George A. Miller Endowment Programs Committee supports CultureTalk and other special collaborative projects.

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We gratefully acknowledge these individuals and businesses for their generosity and commitment to the arts. Their support enabled the Center to welcome back in-person audiences for Music, Theatre, Dance, and visiting artist productions this past season. Krannert Center continues to make accessibility improvements, co-commission works to help support artist partners, and focus on engagement work within the community. If your membership has lapsed and you'd like to renew, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

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Sam Smith, Director of Civic Engagement and Social Practice

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WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

PHONES AND DEVICES

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

ACCESSIBILITY

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email:

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

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