

The
NUTCRACKER

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**ORLANDO
BALLET**

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **JORDEN MORRIS**
CHOREOGRAPHY **JORDEN MORRIS**

SCORE **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY**

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ORLANDO BALLET

JORDEN MORRIS • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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JORDEN MORRIS

ASSISTANT TO THE CHOREOGRAPHER
LISA THORN MORRIS

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & ANIMATRONIC CHOREOGRAPHY
HEATH GILL

CHILDREN'S REHEARSAL TEAM
KIM MARSH • NATASHA GLOS • AMYIA BURRELL

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ROBERT PERDZIOLA

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ACT ONE

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- Party Girl Dresses sponsored by:** Andrew & Elyse Starling
- Mouse King Costume sponsored by:** Sue Ellen Franklin & Ken Lesniak
- Columbina Costume:** Dr. Lynn Le
- Harlequin Costume sponsored in honor of:** Louis & Alexandra Logas
- Snowflake Costumes sponsored by:** Cheryl & Tom Collins; Jayne & John Willis

ACT TWO

- Magical Garden Divertissement sponsored by:** Massey Services, Inc.
- Spanish Women & Men Costume Collections sponsored by:** Theodora Uniken Venema
- Desert Princess Costume sponsored by:** Raul & Jennifer Socarras
- Heron Costume sponsored by:** SchenkelShultz Architecture
- Les Patineur & Le Patineur Costume Collection sponsored by:** Margaret Shan Atkins & James Edward Erbs
- Trepak Woman & Men Costume Collection sponsored by:** Larry & Laura Zirbel
- Mother Goose Costume sponsored in memory of:** Diane "Deedoo" Trezenski
- Waltz of the Flowers Soloist & Corps de Ballet Costume Collection sponsored by:** Frank Santos
- Sugar Plum Fairy Costume sponsored by:** Guillermo & Yadhira Sollberger

LETTERS FROM EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



This season marks the second for our new and bright production of *The Nutcracker*, which immediately became a holiday favorite and tradition.

With Clara flying above a fantastical world accompanied by dancing snowflakes, extraordinary puppets, and surprise characters, the audience finds itself in a magical setting driven by composer Tchaikovsky's iconic music. So be dazzled and breathe it all in and enjoy this delightfully mesmerizing experience.

Making *The Nutcracker* was an extraordinary project that could not have been successful without an extraordinary team including Robert Perdziola's brilliant costume and set designs;

Joseph Walls' exquisite lighting design; along with Scott Silson's and Jeremy Thorpe's powerful puppeteering. I offer my thanks to our hard-working production team, board of directors, the extraordinary dancers and, of course, to my wife, Associate Artistic Director Lisa Thorn Morris.

Thank you for being part of the Orlando Ballet family and celebrating the holidays with us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jorden Morris".

JORDEN MORRIS
Artistic Director



The holidays are filled with love and gatherings with friends and family. One of the most beautiful ways we come together is through the arts. Live artistic performances create shared experiences that foster connection. *The Nutcracker* is an enchanting ballet that brings families together.

Prior to becoming Executive Director I was fortunate to see Jorden Morris' beautiful production. Jorden's ability to tell stories through dance shone brilliantly and clearly contributed to bringing the community together. None of *The Nutcracker's* magic would have been possible without the support of the Orlando Ballet family that took a risk and invested in this production and our mission. I offer a special thank you to

everyone including one particularly generous stakeholder – Orlando Health. We appreciate and celebrate Orlando Health's commitment to improving the health, wellness and quality of life for Central Florida.

Let this be your new tradition—and celebrate the holidays with us.

Smiles,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad".

BRADLEY RENNER
Executive Director

CAST

ACT ONE

DROSSELMEYER

Cameron Bailey • Francis Mihm
Nathan Rowell

CLARA STAHLBAUM

Dahlia Denicore • Maya Fazzari
Kate Gardinier • Renee Shubov

NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Amir Dodarkhojaye
Charlie Mellor • Jaysan Stinnett
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

FRITZ STAHLBAUM

Sebastian Marriott-Smith
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver

MRS. STAHLBAUM

Sofia Abenanty • Kera Fernstrom
Natalie Taylor

MR. STAHLBAUM

John Abenanty • Amir Dodarkhojaye
Francis Mihm

CHESTNUT VENDOR

Rony Baseman • Tolly Stewart

BUTCHER

Cameron Bailey • Jack Ragland

COOK

Dahlia Denicore • Kera Fernstrom
Aria Smith

MAID

Dominique Guerra • Anna Neudorf
Kate Shibagaki-Ong

BUTLER

Rony Baseman • Samuel Portilla
Tolly Stewart

SOUS CHEF/GOOSE PUPPETEER

Cameron Bailey • David West

POULTRY SHOP PUPPETEER

Sebastian Marriott-Smith • Zach Mench
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

FRITZ'S FRIENDS/CADETS

John Abenanty • Thomas Gerhardt
Zach Mench • Sebastian Marriott-Smith
Alberto Peñalver • Jack Ragland
Nathan Rowell • Jaysan Stinnett
David West

CLARA'S FRIENDS

Dahlia Denicore • Maya Fazzari
Kellie Fulton • Kate Gardinier
Kenna Gold • Cielo Ibarrola
Hazuki Kishida • Hitomi Nakamura
Jackie Nash • Renee Shubov • Aria
Smith

PARENTS-LADIES

Liang Cheng Chiu • Aurora Chernis
Rachel Cravener • Kera Fernstrom
Avery Grace McDougall
Dominique Guerra • Miri Mochizuki
Shannon McNiven • Lillian Munson
Dru Oetjen • Ellarie Price
Sabrina Sierens • Laura Sonnek
Natalie Taylor • Sierra Willis

PARENTS-GENTLEMEN

Cameron Bailey • Rony Baseman
Sebastian Cazares • Thomas Gerhardt
Sebastian Marriott-Smith • Zach Mench
Francis Mihm • Samuel Portilla
Jack Ragland • Tolly Stewart

PARTY GIRLS

Harper Belle Seliga • Beatrice Bell
Rowan David • Adelyn Ginzinger
Cece Goldsberry • Dakota Harris
Cassidy Hosmer • Ava Miller
Camilla Nelson • Marianna Rodriguez
Luisa Sollberger • Cora Yule

PARTY BOYS

Berkeley Barksdale • Lyla Blankemeier
Elizabeth Fabian • Rose Foster
Eden Freiburger Harper Hazzard
Landry Johnson • Jillian Luna
Clara Pellarin • Madeline Phillips
Evelyn Ramirez • Harper Updike

CAST

MOUSE KING

Cameron Bailey • David West

COLUMBINA DOLL

Sofia Abenanty • Kellie Fulton
Jackie Nash

HARLEQUIN DOLL

Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

FIGHTER MICE

Sebastian Cazares • Rachel Cravener
Emily Estrada • Avery Grace McDougall
Bradyn Harris • Akira Kikuchi
Noe Leilani • Sofia Marquez
Shannon McNiven • Miri Mochizuki
Kanon Nomura • Samuel Portilla
Joel Ruybalid • Laura Sonnek
Rei Yanagishima

LITTLE MICE

Mary Bartolini • Hermione Cooney
Abigail Craig • Riley DeBellis
Elliot Glisson • Julianne Hancock
Keira Martin • Sloane O'Toole
Remy Patrick • Claire Pavlov
Mattie Sansom • Stella Spraggins
Sonora Stafford • Charlotte Thiemann
Payton Thinner • Layla Waldron

SOLDIERS

John Abenanty • Thomas Gerhardt
Sebastian Marriott-Smith • Zach Mench
Charlie Mellor • Alberto Peñalver
Jack Ragland • Nathan Rowell
Jaysan Stinnett • David West

SMALL SOLDIERS

Ella Cabrera • Madeleine Eddy
Isabella Giardiello • Daisy Lemos
Madeleine Nort • Daniel Ocean
Livia Patel • Henley Poole
Hadley Stafford • Megan Squires
Stella Yonfa

SNOWFLAKES

Aurora Chernis • Dahlia Denicore
Emily Estrada • Maya Fazzari
Kera Fernstrom • Kellie Fulton
Dominique Guerra • Kate Gardinier
Kenna Gold • Hazuki Kishida
Lillian Munson • Jackie Nash
Anna Neudorf • Kanon Nomura
Kate Shibagaki-Ong • Renee Shubov
Sabrina Sierens • Natalie Taylor
Sierra Willis

ACT TWO

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Ellie Iannotti • Cielo Ibarrola
Hitomi Nakamura

CAVALIER

John Abenanty • Amir Dodarkhojaye
Nathan Rowell • Jaysan Stinnett

SPRITES

Berkeley Barksdale • Beatrice Bell
Finn Bergman • Lyla Blankemeier
Marielle Chactoura • Rowan David
Elizabeth Fabian • Eden Freiburger
Elle Golden • Cece Goldsberry
Adelyn Ginzinger • Adalyn Hall
Dakota Harris • Harper Hazzard
Charlotte Henderson • Emma Hill
Cassidy Hosmer • Landry Johnson
Ava Miller • Birdie McSurley
Clara Pellarin • Madeline Phillips
Evelyn Ramirez • Marianna Rodriguez
Harper Belle Seliga • Luisa Sollberger
Harper Updike • Blair Wieland

SPANISH WOMEN

Kenna Gold • Kate Gardinier
Kellie Fulton • Ellie Iannotti
Cielo Ibarrola • Aria Smith

SPANISH MEN

Cameron Bailey • Thomas Gerhardt
Sebastian Marriott-Smith
Nathan Rowell • Jaysan Stinnett

CAST

DESERT PRINCESS

Kera Fernstrom • Kenna Gold
Hazuki Kishida • Hitomi Nakamura

HERON BIRD

Kellie Fulton • Cielo Ibarrola
Hitomi Nakamura • Renee Shubov

LE PATINEUR

Sebastian Marriott-Smith
Charlie Mellor • Zach Mench
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

LES PATINEURS

Maya Fazzari • Kate Gardinier
Dominique Guerra • Hazuki Kishida
Lillian Munson • Renee Shubov
Sabrina Sierens • Aria Smith
Natalie Taylor

TREPAK WOMAN

Kenna Gold • Jackie Nash • Aria Smith

TREPAK MEN

John Abenanty • Amir Dodarkhojayev
Charlie Mellor • David West
Israel Zavaleta Escobedo

MOTHER GOOSE

Noe Leilani • Dru Oetjen

MOTHER GOOSE DRIVERS

Rony Baseman • Bradyn HARRIS
Joel Ruybalid • Tolly Stewart

GIRLS POLICHINELLE

Zury Ambroise • Claire Atwell
Grace Cheyne • Stella Cox
Kadie DiSisto • Morgan Marin
Luna Menoni • Anabella Moreau
Hinata Ohno • Razaina Robertson
Giuliana Vargas • Calla Warner

BOYS POLICHINELLE

Samarah Allen • Sameenah Allen
Bexley Burket • Reese Cravens
Delilah Cuprill • Samantha Garcia-Visbal
Sara Hobbs • Emerson Hogancamp •
Hunter Moreland • Adelaide Raymor
Camille Sawyer

POLICHINELLE (FLYING)

Daisy Lemos • Madeleine Nort
Henley Poole

FLOWER WOMEN SOLOISTS

Dahlia Denicore • Maya Fazzari
Kellie Fulton • Kate Gardinier
Kenna Gold • Hazuki Kishida
Jackie Nash • Sabrina Sierens
Aria Smith

FLOWER MEN SOLOISTS

Cameron Bailey • Thomas Gerhardt
Sebastian Marriott-Smith • Zach Mench
Francis Mihm • Alberto Peñalver
Jack Ragland • David West

FLOWER CORPS WOMEN

Aurora Chernis • Rachel Cravener
Emily Estrada • Kera Fernstrom
Dominique Guerra • Lillian Munson
Miri Mochizuki • Anna Neudorf
Kanon Nomura • Ellarie Price
Kate Shibagaki-Ong • Eliana Smith
Sierra Willis

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Scene 1

Our story begins in a bustling street on Christmas Eve – Drosselmeyer, the town's Toy Maker, opens his shop as the butcher and Chestnut vendor prepare for the day. The Stahlbaum family's cook and sous chef arrive to collect their Christmas goose, but the goose has other ideas and escapes in a flurry of feathers!

Drosselmeyer gathers a group of children out shopping and performs a puppet show for them – the great battle of the Nutcracker and Mouse King!

As the streets begin to clear, Drosselmeyer prepares to leave for the Stahlbaum Christmas party. He has made a very special doll for young Clara – a beautiful Nutcracker. The master toy maker cuts the strings off the Nutcracker doll and fills it with magic...the doll amazingly comes to life!

With his magical gift and a snow globe for Mrs. Stahlbaum, Drosselmeyer departs for the evening's festivities...and a few surprises!

Scene 2

Inside the Stahlbaum house we find Mrs. Stahlbaum and the maid putting the final touches on the tree as they prepare for the party. Clara arrives in her new dress just as her brother Fritz arrives home from military school. Father appears and the family reunites with joy.

The guests begin to arrive, including Fritz's cadet friends. Drosselmeyer is the last to arrive with his special gift for Clara.

The cadets begin to dance, joined by the young girls at the party. Mr. Stahlbaum then calls all the fathers to dance, and soon the whole house is dancing in celebration.

Drosselmeyer has brought other dolls to the party to dance for the children – the butler brings out beautiful Columбина and the colorful Harlequin dolls on a moving dais. Drosselmeyer gathers the children to watch in delight as the dolls perform. He then places the mysterious case holding the Nutcracker doll in the center of the room. Drosselmeyer dances for Clara with high leaps and turns – he reveals the Nutcracker at the last moment and presents it to Clara with a flourish!

As the guests depart for dinner, Clara and Drosselmeyer stay in the living room to play and dance with the Nutcracker doll. Fritz appears and is captivated by the Nutcracker, a tug of war ensues and the Nutcracker is broken! Drosselmeyer consoles Clara and proceeds to mend the doll as the guests return to the living room. The evening ends with a final dance of the families before they all depart. Clara retires to her bedroom, as does Fritz while Mr. and Mrs Stahlbaum turn down the lights and enjoy a peaceful moment at the end of a wonderful day.

Scene 3

As the clock approaches midnight, Clara comes down the stairs with her Nutcracker. The snow globe Drosselmeyer gave to Mrs. Stahlbaum begins to glow and shimmer – something magical is happening! Clara runs to the fireplace and is surprised by mice appearing from the hearth...and then the staircase...the mice try to steal the Nutcracker and begin to chase Clara through the living room. Drosselmeyer appears and uses the power of the snow globe to chase the mice away!

SYNOPSIS

Scene 3 cont.

He then begins to transform the living room as the Christmas tree magically begins to grow, getting larger and brighter with each passing moment! Drosselmeyer then surprises Clara by making her fly! She floats up in the air as the living room begins to magically transform into a giant toy chest, complete with a Ferris Wheel and Hobby Horse – wait! The Harlequin and Columбина are here as well - there is even a giant Toy Train.

A snow globe appears at the base of the tree and to Clara's delight, her Nutcracker appears inside it transformed into a life-sized soldier! The Mouse King comes riding in on his War Goose and the Nutcracker mounts the Hobby Horse. The great battle scene begins – mice battling soldiers – jousting with giant candy canes – mice chasing Clara only to be saved by the Nutcracker.

The Mouse King and Nutcracker square off with swords and begin to duel – the Mouse King fights the Nutcracker into a precarious position and is about to defeat the soldier when Clara hooks the Mouse King with a large candy cane, spinning him into the birdcage where he is captured!

Scene 4

The battle scene slowly disappears, and the giant tree transforms into a starry night. The Nutcracker is grateful for Clara's help in defeating the Mouse King and asks her to dance with him. Clara's adventure continues when the Nutcracker reveals a magical Snow Kingdom! Snowflakes appear through the snow globe and dance with Clara and the Nutcracker.

At the end of the snow scene, Drosselmeyer appears and tells Clara she must fly to the Magical Garden and meet the Sugar Plum Fairy. As the snowflakes fade away, Clara starts to fly – up away to the next adventure!

ACT TWO

The Magical Garden begins to awaken – little garden Sprites rise and dance with Drosselmeyer as they await the arrival of Clara. Drosselmeyer points to the sky as Clara sails overhead, softly landing to meet and dance with the Sprites.

The Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier and the Nutcracker arrive to celebrate Clara's arrival. Drosselmeyer re-tells the story of how Clara bravely saved the Nutcracker in the great battle. The Sugar Plum Fairy asks Clara to stay and join all the magical characters in celebration.

Clara dances with the fiery Spanish couples and is then mesmerized by the Desert Princess in her Cyr Wheel. The brightly feathered Heron bird flies and spins for Clara, followed by the Patineurs on their skates. An energetic trio of Trepak dancers leap and turn with abandon. Mother Goose arrives with her Polichinelles and Clara joins in the lively dance.

The beautiful flowers of the Garden appear and dance, followed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

Clara's wonderful adventure has come to an end – she says goodbye to all of her new friends. Drosselmeyer returns Clara's Nutcracker doll and sends her on one last flight, back to her living room.

As Clara lands in her home, she hugs her Nutcracker and dreams of the next adventure...



JORDEN MORRIS

Artistic Director

After his dance career, Jorden Morris studied teaching and choreography at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) and later dance and theatre arts at New York University. He trained in French choreography and pedagogy with Claude Bessy and Serge Golovine at the Paris Opera and later with Russian masters Sergei Berejnoi and Tatiana Terekhova at Boston Ballet.

Morris' elite training led to artistic leadership at RWB where he premiered his first work – an interpretation of Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*. He later joined Boston Ballet's artistic staff and choreographed two pieces for

Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Canada.

From 2002 to 2013, Morris served as RWB's associate school director and was commissioned to create his first, full-length production – *Peter Pan*, the company's best-selling production, surpassed only by his *Moulin Rouge® the Ballet*, whose grand debut required performances to be added.

Morris directed and choreographed *Head Start/Feet First*, a collaboration between the RWB and intercity academic schools, which resulted in Canada's popular children's television show, "The Toy Castle," in which he also starred.

Morris premiered two other works at RWB - *The Doorway*, inspired by the poetry and voice of Leonard Cohen; and *MOA*, inspired by the artist Egon Schiele.

While *Moulin Rouge®* toured the world, Morris' *Peter Pan* was being performed by the RWB, Pittsburgh Ballet and Nevada Ballet Theatre.

In 2019, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre premiered *The Great Gatsby*, Morris' glamorous ballet with an original score by composer Carl Davis. Before being named its artistic director, Morris came to Orlando Ballet in 2020 as Artist in Residence and staged three grand ballets. In 2023, he debuted his newest creation, a reimagined production of *The Nutcracker*, a highlight of Orlando Ballet's 50th anniversary season.

ARTISTIC TEAM

LISA THORN MORRIS

Associate Artistic Director

As Associate Artistic Director at Orlando Ballet, Lisa Thorn Morris, who joined Orlando Ballet in 2015, has significantly contributed to the success of the professional company's artistic development.



Lisa enjoyed a 20-year dance career as an artist with the Kansas City Ballet where she performed numerous principal roles by some of the world's greatest choreographers including favorite roles by Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Todd Bolender, August Bournonville, Merce Cunningham, Agnes DeMille, Nacho Duato, Ruth Page, Marius Petipa and Twyla Tharp, to name a few.

While at Kansas City Ballet, Lisa transitioned to serve as Associate Ballet Mistress before being elevated to Ballet Mistress in Residence.

In addition to dancing professionally, Lisa has also choreographed for numerous organizations including Orlando Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Actors Theatre of Kansas City, and the Kansas City Youth Ballet. Lisa's choreographic skills and success led to her being named 2005's Emerging Choreographer at the Craft of Choreography Conference.

Lisa earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts in Dance, graduating Summa Cu Laude from the University of Missouri where she also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Conservatory of Music and Dance.

HEATH GILL

Rehearsal Director

Throughout his career, Heath had the opportunity to perform featured roles in a widely varied repertoire that included renowned creators such as: John McFall, Jorden Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, James Kudelka, Twyla Tharp, David Bintley, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Jorma Elo, Val Caniparoli, Helen Pickett, Liam Scarlett, Jiri Kylian, Alexander Eckman, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Michael Pink, and Ohad Naharin. Heath received critical acclaim for his performances and was recognized as one of ArtsATL's "30 under 30" and Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch".



In 2017 Heath co-founded Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. Beyond bringing his skills to the stage for TMBT, Gill served on the Board of Directors and as the company's Production Director and Resident Choreographer. In his time at Terminus, he created many full evening dance works and his production, *Marley Was Dead, To Begin With* was named "Best Dance Production of 2020" by ArtsATL.

Since joining the team at Orlando Ballet, Heath has continued to present and create new works for the company including *Confronting Genius*, *The Next Big Thing*, and *Memento*. Heath has a sincere love for coaching and is thrilled to be passing his skill and love of the artform on to the next generation as Orlando



PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Composer

Even at the age of six, Tchaikovsky loved music so much that he was prepared to bleed for it—literally. He practiced piano every chance he got, and when he couldn't, he would tap out the music he had made up in his head on the house's windowpanes. One time, he tapped so hard that he broke the window glass, cutting himself badly. But Tchaikovsky could not be lured away from the music. Born in Kamsko-Votinsk, Russia on May 7, 1840, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a bright child; he could read Russian, French, and German by the time he was six. After attending boarding school, he studied law and mathematics and got a job as a clerk working in the Ministry of Justice. But after four years, he quit to follow his original love: music. Soon after he began going to music school full-time and studying composition, he was invited to teach classes. The beautiful music that Tchaikovsky would create over the next 25 years made him one of the most popular of all the Russian composers. His works include nine operas, six symphonies, four concertos, three string quartets, and numerous songs, suites, and overtures. Yet, it is for his ballet scores that he is most remembered. Tchaikovsky may have only written three ballets, but they are the three most famous ballets of all time: *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.



JOHN ABENANTY

Born in Brooklyn, John Abenanty is a graduate of The Harid Conservatory. He was the first American principal dancer of the Sofia National Opera & Ballet and has toured to many countries. John is also a laureate of the Varna International Ballet Competition and a USA IBC finalist. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.

SOFIA ABENANTY

Born in Bulgaria, Sofia Abenanty trained at Bulgaria's National School of Dance Arts, later becoming a soloist at Sofia National Opera and Ballet. She is a Varna International Ballet Competition Bronze Medalist. She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.



CAMERON BAILEY

Born in England, Cameron Bailey trained at the Royal Ballet in the junior associate program, following by joining Elmhurst Ballet School. Representing the UK at the 2017 Cecchetti International Ballet competition, he earned a scholarship with Oklahoma City Ballet and later graduated from English National Ballet School. He is in his third season at Orlando Ballet.

DAHLIA DENICORE

Born in Virginia, Dahlia Denicore trained at the San Francisco Ballet School. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2022 and made her professional debut as Lucy in Michael Pink's *Dracula* and Blanche in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.



AMIR DODARKHOJAYEV

Born in Kazakhstan, Amir Dodarkhojayev trained at Harid Conservatory. He won first place at Youth America Grand Prix Dallas in 2021 and later joined Orlando Ballet as an OBII. He is in his fourth season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



ISRAEL ZAVALETA ESCOBEDO

Born in Mexico, Israel Zavaleta Escobedo is a proud Orlando Ballet School alumnus. Prior to attending Orlando Ballet School, he received training from his family's dance company Ballet Folklorico Texcoco de Noe Zavaleta. He is in his seventh season with Orlando Ballet.

MAYA FAZZARI

Born in Canada, Maya Fazzari trained at Canada's National Ballet School. Following her graduation in 2021, she joined their post-graduate program and performed with the National Ballet of Canada. She joined OBII in 2023, and this is her first season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



KELLIE FULTON

Born in New Jersey, Kellie Fulton trained at the School of Pennsylvania Ballet. She joined the second company and completed the Butler Fellowship Program at Ballet Austin. Her journey also includes programs at Boston Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. She is now in her sixth season with Orlando Ballet.



KATE GARDINIER

Born in Pittsburgh, Kate Gardinier trained at the Washington School of Ballet's Professional Training Program where she had the opportunity to perform under the direction of Julie Kent. She joined OBII in 2021. She is in her third season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



THOMAS GERHARDT

Born in England, Thomas Gerhardt trained at the Royal Ballet School White Lodge. He soon joined the Royal Ballet Upper School and worked with choreographers Ashley Page, Carlos Acosta and the Birmingham Royal Ballet. He is in his fourth season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

KENNA GOLD

Born in California, Kenna Gold trained at The Rock School on a full scholarship. She joined Orlando Ballet in 2018 as a trainee and has since danced numerous lead roles. She is in her fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



ELLIE IANNOTTI

Born in New Jersey, Ellie Iannotti trained at The Rock School for Dance Education, and later became a part of ABT's National Training Scholar program. She then attended the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School on scholarship for a year before joining OBII. She is in her third season with Orlando Ballet.



HAZUKI KISHIDA

Born in Canada, Hazuki Kishida trained at the Victoria Academy of Ballet and graduated from their Post-Secondary Bridge Program in 2022. Upon graduation, she joined OBII, and was later promoted to Apprentice for the 23/24 season. She is in her second season as a company dancer with Orlando Ballet.



CIELO IBARROLA

Born in Paraguay, Cielo Ibarrola trained at the Miami City Ballet School Pre-Professional Program, graduating in 2022. Joining OBII in 2022, then promoted to Apprentice, she has performed in *Western Symphony* (MCBS) and *Paquita* (OBII). She is in her second season as a Company Dancer at Orlando Ballet.



SEBASTIAN MARRIOTT-SMITH

Born in England, Sebastian Marriott-Smith trained at the Royal Ballet School, later graduating from English National Ballet School where he worked with Tamara Rojo on the World Premiere of her production *Raymonda*. Joining OBII in 2022 this is Sebastian's second season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY

CHARLIE MELLOR

Born in England, Charlie Mellor trained at Tring Park School. There, he secured First Place at the Cecchetti Children's Awards at Sadler Wells and is a Mabel Ryan Junior Award runner-up. His TV debut in BBC Young Dancer of the Year showcased a La Fille Mal Gardee pas de deux. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.



ZACH MENCH

Born in California, Zachary Mench began his training under former Bolshoi Ballet Soloist, Sobir Utabaev, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He then moved to the states and resumed training with The School of Washington Ballet and joined the Houston Ballet Academy at the age of 16. He then trained under the direction of Claudio Muñoz and Orlando Molina. He is in his first season as a Company Dancer at Orlando Ballet.



FRANCIS MIHM

Born in Iowa, Francis Mihm trained at Heartland Academy. He attended American Ballet Theatre and Milwaukee Ballet summer intensives and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Dance Arts Administration from Butler University. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.



HITOMI NAKAMURA

Born in Japan, Hitomi started her training at Kaneta Kono ballet academy, then she moved to the states and trained at Houston Ballet Academy. She joined OB then was promoted to apprentice in 2014 and since joined the company she has performed several principal roles. This will be her tenth season with Orlando Ballet.



JACKIE NASH

Born in Connecticut, Jackie Nash trained at Connecticut Dance School and The Rock School. She danced with Atlanta Ballet for twelve seasons and Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre for two seasons, performing varying lead roles. She is currently in her second season with Orlando Ballet.



ORLANDO BALLET COMPANY



ALBERTO PEÑALVER

Born in Spain, Alberto Peñalver trained at the Conservatorio Profesional de Danza of Murcia, John Cranko Schule, and School of American Ballet. He was a Tulsa Ballet II member before becoming a company dancer at Ballet Arizona. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.

JACK RAGLAND

Born in South Carolina, Jack trained at South Carolina Christian Dance Theatre and attended Summer programs at Charlotte Ballet, University of SC Dance conservatory and Pennsylvania Ballet. Jack was invited to The Youth America Grand Prix Finals in 2021 as well as being invited to perform in the Danza in Arte a Pietrasanta festival. This is his first season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



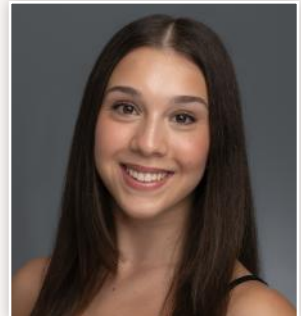
NATHAN ROWELL

Born in Oregon, Nathan Rowell trained at Houston Ballet Academy and then later at the Texas Ballet Theatre. He joined Orlando Ballet in 2019 as an OBII. He is currently in his fourth season with Orlando Ballet.



RENEE SHUBOV

Born in New York, Renee Shubov started her training at the Academy of Dance Arts in New Jersey. At 14, she moved to Houston to train at the Houston Ballet Academy. After two years, she joined Houston Ballet II under the direction of Claudio Muñoz. In 2023, Renee joined OBII. She is in her first season as a Company Dancer with Orlando Ballet.



ARIA SMITH

Born in Southern California, Aria Smith began her training at Maple Conservatory of Dance. At 10, she joined Ballet West Academy where she participated in many performances. Aria graduated from the Ballet West Professional Training Division in 2022 and joined OBII that fall. She is very excited to be joining the Company this year.





JAYSAN STINNETT

Born in Tennessee, Jaysan Stinnett trained at the Thomas Armor Youth Ballet in Miami, followed by additional training at the Harid Conservatory. He garnered full scholarships for various prestigious summer programs. He is currently in sixth season with Orlando Ballet.

DAVID WEST

Born in New Jersey, David West trained at Petrov Ballet School. Achieving recognition in the Youth American Grand Prix, he earned a full scholarship to Boston Ballet's trainee program. He is in his third season with Orlando Ballet.



ORLANDO BALLET SECOND COMPANY (OBII)



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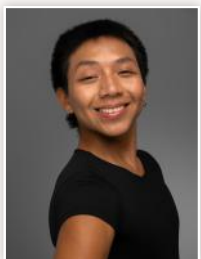
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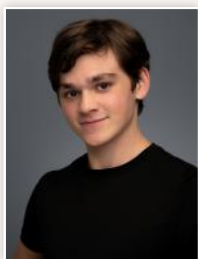
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as of November 19, 2024

WELCOME TO THE DR. PHILLIPS CENTER

Grab a Drink, Grab a Snack.

- Pop by the bars on tiers 1, 3, or 4 for a range of food and drinks—including delicious culinary offerings created by our in-house chef. Bar service starts 1.5 hours before shows. You can also preorder drinks for intermission.
- On tier 2, you can visit Crafts on two and enjoy local craft beer, wine, cocktails, and Foxtail Coffee. Beverages in the auditorium are allowed if they are purchased in the Dr. Phillips Center. Please enjoy your food before taking your seat.

Feel at Home

- Restrooms are available on each tier, and all are wheelchair accessible.
- Elevators reach all tiers of the theater. One elevator is on the north side of the Harvey & Carol Massey Family Grand Staircase, and two are on the south side.
- Applause is welcome! The dancers love to know if you're enjoying the performance, so don't be afraid to applaud after a dancer does something spectacular onstage, when the dancers take a bow, or at the ballet's end.

Be a Good Neighbor

- We all want to enjoy the performance. Please refrain from talking or whispering during the performance. Help keep an unobstructed view by arriving on time, being seated before the performance starts, and not leaning forward or resting your head on your seatmate's head or shoulder.

Need Some Help?

- Ticket services are available through the Dr. Phillips Center Box Office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 pm, Saturday, 12 p.m. to 4 pm, or two hours before showtime.
- Visit drphillipscenter.org or call 407-358-6603.
- Subscriber services are available through the Orlando Ballet Box Office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Visit orlandoballet.org or call 407-418-9828.
- Lost and Found is at the concierge desk behind the Harvey & Carol Massey Family Grand Staircase in Della Phillips Grand Lobby.

Important Policies

- Late seating isn't allowed while a performance is in progress. You'll be asked to stand until a break, at the discretion of house management, which may be at intermission. Guests can watch a live stream of the performance from monitors in the Della Phillips Grand Lobby until entry is permitted.
- Guests can freely leave and re-enter the performance at any time during our Family & Sensory-Friendly performances.
- Occupying a seat other than the seat for which you hold a ticket isn't allowed. Please sit only in your ticketed seat.
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Buffalo Trace Bourbon Cream

Top with:

Chocolate Sauce
Whipped Topping
Mini Marshmallow
Candy Cane



Dream Effort

Behind the Scenes with Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute

Each holiday season, Orlando Ballet's *The Nutcracker* brings joy and wonder to audiences across Central Florida. Behind the scenes, the dedicated official medical team from Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute ensures that the dancers remain healthy and able to perform at their best.

Leading the effort is Elizabeth Davis, MD, team physician for the Orlando Ballet. Her love for the arts began at a young age. "Growing up, I attended *The Nutcracker* with my family," she recalled. "It was our way of opening the Christmas season, and the magic of the performance left a lasting impression." As a figure skater, Dr. Davis developed an appreciation for the connection between sports and the performing arts, which ultimately led her to specialize in sports



medicine. Today, she finds great satisfaction in keeping the dancers stage-ready. "One of the most rewarding parts of my job is caring for these athletes, so they can perform at their highest level."

Courtney Butler, head athletic trainer, also manages care of the dancers. Butler's own athletic journey as a gymnast inspired her path to becoming an athletic trainer. "I had my fair share of injuries growing up," Butler said. "That experience shaped my passion for helping others recover." Now in her seventh season with the ballet, Butler finds herself immersed in a role that merges her love for the arts with healthcare.

The whole team is essential, particularly during *The Nutcracker* season when dancers perform up to three shows a day. "We're there two hours before every performance to provide treatments like massage and joint mobilization," Butler explained. "It's demanding, but ensuring the dancers are healthy and ready to perform is what makes the magic of *The Nutcracker* possible."

Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute's comprehensive care doesn't stop with the ballet. "The same level of care we provide to the dancers is available to everyday patients," Dr. Davis said. "Whether it's a high school athlete or someone recovering from a sports injury, our goal is to get people back to doing what they love."

When I was a child, I thought it was so magical.
It's still magical to me as an adult. You feel like
you're just transported into the story.

—*Elizabeth Davis, MD*
Team Physician for the Orlando Ballet

To me, *The Nutcracker* is the holidays. I can't imagine
having the holidays and not seeing *The Nutcracker*.

—*Courtney Butler*
Head Athletic Trainer for the Orlando Ballet

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THE NEVERLAND BALL



APRIL 5 | 6-11 PM

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ORLANDO BALLET

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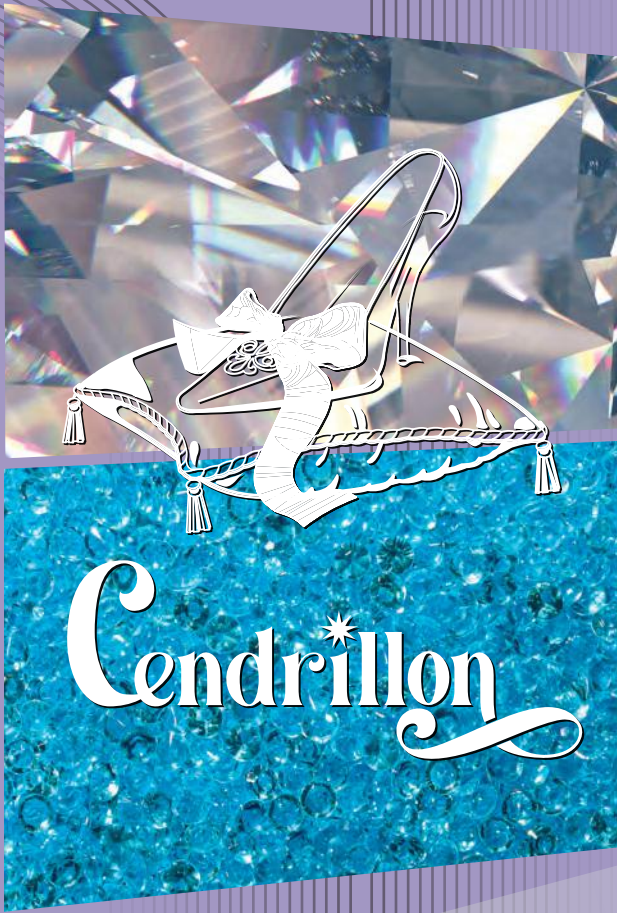
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Friday | February 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday | February 9, 2025 at 2 p.m.

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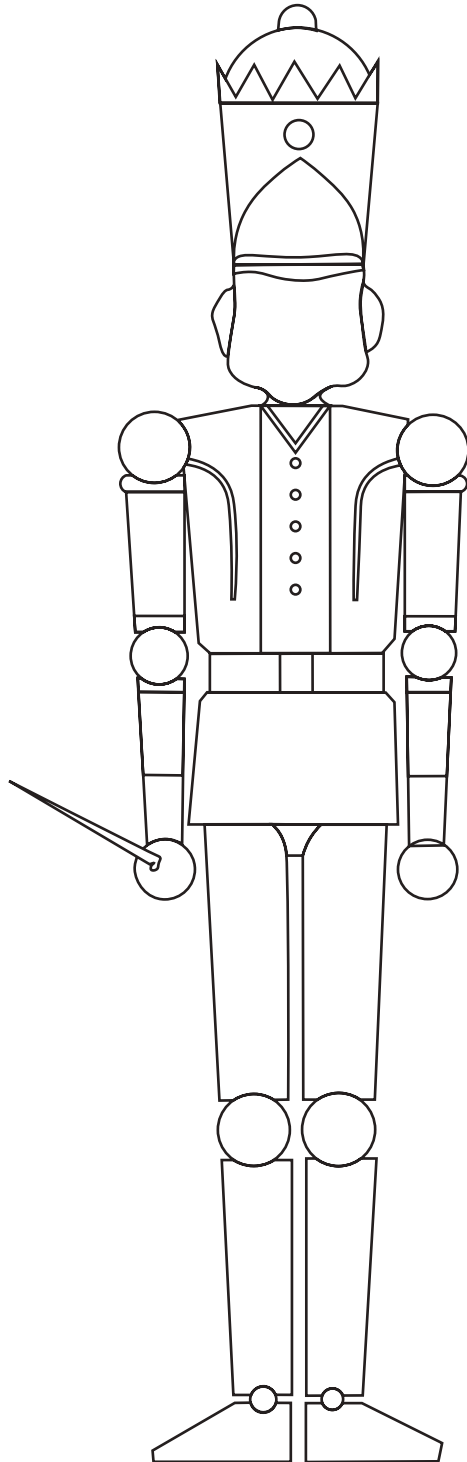
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