



New England Academy of Dance Presents

The Nutcracker Ballet

featuring the **Norwalk Symphony Orchestra**

40th Anniversary

Showtimes

Friday, December 12
7pm

Saturday, December 13
11am and 4pm

Sunday December 14
1pm (children's show) and 4pm

In case of inclement weather and possible changes in showtimes, please check www.neadance.com or 203.972.3265

Tickets

Purchase tickets at NEADance.com or at the door prior to performances

Information

203.972.3265

info@neadance.com

New Canaan High School Auditorium

11 Farm Road
New Canaan, CT

NORWALK
SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA



N E A D

NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF DANCE



The
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Family

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NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Department of Economic and
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Office Of The Arts





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STUDIO

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www.nichestudioct.com

Niche Showroom opening in Darien, CT
January 2026



We are proud to celebrate the New England Academy of Dance and its 40th anniversary production of *The Nutcracker*, a masterpiece of artistry and tradition

Nathalie Schubert & Kristin Redaelli
NICHE founders and NEAD moms

New England Academy of Dance
and
New England Dance Theater

Present

The Nutcracker
2025

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Performed by the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra
Musical Director Jonathan Yates

Featuring

The Company

Anna Marie Armijo ◆ Ellie Briggs ◆ Olivia Carofano
Emmeline DeMuth ◆ Olive Gallagher ◆ Lindsay Hanlon
Rebecca Harper ◆ Samantha Heins ◆ Kiki Horsburgh
Lucy Anne Kurtz ◆ Juliet Lannamann ◆ Kate Livengood
Kayla McCauley ◆ Grace McKeown ◆ Emma McPartland
Addie O'Reilly ◆ Olivia Parker ◆ Anna Paterson ◆ Chloe Perkins
Cailin Prostor ◆ Ava Schinella ◆ Rebecca Schubert ◆ Alex Thomas
Addison Welling

Guest Artists

Dante Adela ◆ Willett Pring ◆ Michael Raquena ◆ Charles Scheland
& the students of the

New England Academy of Dance

Founder - Doris Driver

Choreography by

Frances Ortiz, Ginna Ortiz, and Ted Thomas

Lighting Design by

Kevin Gleason

Credits

Professional Production Team

Music Director Jonathan Yates

Rehearsal Directors Frances Ortiz, Ginna Ortiz, Ted Thomas

Technical Director Ted Thomas

Choir Director Sarah Lee Michaels

Lighting Designer Kevin Gleason

Sound Technician Julian Lowell

Theater Manager Zachary Whitlock

Stage Managers Julian Lowell, London Thomas

Set Designers Graydon Pihlaja & John Pollock

Costume Mistress Frances Ortiz

Costume Mistress Assistant Adrienne Strasberg

Photography Sarah Starling, Alejandro Ulloja,
Dutch Doscher

Videography Josh Lowell

Rehearsal Assistants Rose Engel, Emily Pihlaja, Danielle Presar

Program Design Rose Engel

Office Manager & Ticketing Gail Teymourian

Norwalk Symphony Orchestra

Jonathan Yates, Music Director/Conductor is the Music Director/Conductor of Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, which has enhanced the quality of life in Southwestern Connecticut for 84 years through live performances and music education programs. Maestro Yates made his professional orchestral conducting debut at 23, leading the National Symphony Orchestra in a Millennium Stages Concert. The following year he made his Carnegie Hall debut as a pianist in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop. As Music Director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, Jonathan received his Graduate Diploma in conducting from the Juilliard School, where he studied with James DePreist and Otto-Werner Mueller, and was the holder of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship. He received his Master of Music from State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he worked with Gilbert Kalish, and his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, where he studied with Robert Levin.

Violin 1

Krzysztof Kuznik,
Concertmaster
Stephanie Liu,
Ass't. Concertmaster
Paul Lee
Phoebe Liu
Nicolas Mirabile

Violin 2

Nina Crothers, Principal
Claudia Hafer Tondi,
Ass't. Principal
Ludmila Gufeld
Daniel Karpf

Viola

Suzanne Corey-Sahlin, Principal
Sarah Smale, Ass't. Principal
Alexander McLaughlin

Cello

Jane Yeoung Eun Lee, Principal
Andrea Mills, Ass't. Principal
An-Lin Bardin

Bass

Gerald Massoud, Principal

Flute/Piccolo

Jennifer Berman, Principal
Joanne Hiscocks

Oboe/English Horn

Janet Rosen, Principal

Clarinet

Saerom Kim, Principal
James Forgey

Bassoon

Aerin Switzer, Principal

Horn

Bryan Meyer, Principal
Daniel Shapiro

Trumpet

Charles Johnson, Principal

Trombone

Matthew Russo, Principal

Timpani

Russell Cooper, Principal

Percussion

Peter Hohmeister, Principal

Harp

Eilidh McRae, Principal

Keyboard

Thomas Cuffari
Benjamin Steinhardt

NEAD Directors



Frances Ortiz



Ginna Ortiz



Ted Thomas

Frances Ortiz began her early dance training in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and later studied at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, FL. She earned her BFA in Dance from Purchase College, SUNY, and received full scholarships to The Alvin Ailey American Dance School, The José Limón Dance Institute, The Martha Graham School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Ms. Ortiz earned an MA in Dance in Higher Education from New York University, where she received the award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. She is co-founder of Thomas/Ortiz Dance and currently serves as Partner and Co-Artistic Director at the New England Academy of Dance and its non-profit arm, New England Dance Theater.

A Certified Teacher in the ABT® National Training Curriculum and the Cecchetti method, she is dedicated to inspiring young dancers. In 2023, she received the Connecticut Fellowship Award for Artistic Excellence in Dance and Choreography. She is also a CT certified teacher and has taught at Greenwich High School for 24 years.

Ginna Ortiz, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, began her training at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, FL, where she attended on full scholarship. She earned her BFA in Ballet from Purchase College, SUNY, and received the VP Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Quality of Student Life.

She was awarded scholarships to study with the Richmond Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she later joined the company under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. With DTH, she toured internationally performing works such as Firebird, Dougla, Forces of Rhythm, Serenade, Concerto Barocco, and Western Symphony, and worked with leading artists including Suzanne Farrell, Robert Garland, Charmaine Hunter, Christina Johnson, and Alicia Graf.

A founding member of Thomas/Ortiz Dance, she performed and served as rehearsal director before joining NEAD in 2003. Ms. Ortiz is certified in ABT® Cecchetti ballet and trained in the Vaganova and Balanchine styles. She is currently Partner and Co-Artistic Director at NEAD and New England Dance Theater.

Ted Thomas began his dance training at the Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center in Queens, NY, and later Ted Thomas began his dance training at the Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center in Queens, NY, and continued at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. He trained with The Alvin Ailey American Dance School, The Joffrey Ballet School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem, earned his BFA from Purchase College, and completed an MA in Dance in Higher Education at New York University.

Mr. Thomas has performed with major companies including the Paul Taylor Dance Company, featured in the Academy Award-nominated film Dancemaker, as well as Elisa Monte Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico of New York, Nikolais & Louis Dance Company, and Rebecca Kelly Ballet. A Princess Grace Award recipient, he has taught at Barnard College, NYU, and other institutions, mentoring and choreographing for emerging dancers.

He is an ABT® National Training Curriculum Certified Teacher and Connecticut State Certified Educator. Mr. Thomas is a Partner, Director, and Instructor at the New England Academy of Dance and co-founder of the Fairfield County Dance Festival, contributing his extensive performance and teaching experience year-round.

NEAD Faculty



Rose Engel



Christina Fagundes-Turner



Mairead Moore



Emily Pihlaja



MaryLynn Poin



Danielle Presar



Justin Sherwood



Rebecca Tschan



Alejandro Ulloa



Melissa Weber



Lilia Khanina
(Accompanist)



Ashton Turner
(Accompanist)

Who's Who - Guest Artists



Charles Scheland (Nutcracker) is a New York City based dance artist and teacher. Charles grew up in Germany, Austria, and the Washington DC area, and graduated summa cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program with a double major in Dance and Economics and departmental honors in both. Charles is currently a dancer with Carolyn Dorfman Dance and previously danced for RIOULT Dance NY and Michael Mao Dance. He has also been a guest artist with Buglisi Dance Theater, New England Dance Theater, and Alison

Cook-Beatty Dance. He has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Bill T. Jones, Juel Lane, Jessica Lang, Milton Myers, Henning Rübsum, Paul Taylor, and others. Charles teaches ballet and Horton technique, and is Milton Myers' assistant and demonstrator at Jacob's Pillow, the Juilliard School, Steps on Broadway, and internationally. Charles presents choreography under the company name CES Danceworks which performs contemporary modern pieces in and around the New York City area. Outside of the dance studio, Charles is the Executive Assistant at Dance ICONS, and he co-hosts and co-produces a podcast with The Nerd Party network called Throwback Paperback.

www.charlesescheland.com @cschels



Michael Raquena (Cavalier) began his studies in 2005 at the Gustavo Franklin Foundation Ballet Art School in Caracas, Venezuela. In 2014 he received a scholarship to study with the Joffrey Concert Group in New York City, directed by Davis Robertson and Nicole Duffy. Michael was a gold medal winner in the International Classical Ballet Competition (CIBC) advanced category in 2015. Additionally, he had the opportunity to work for professional

companies such as the National ballet Of Venezuela (Ballet Teresa Carreño), New World Ballet of Caracas, Contemporary Ballet of Caracas, and the Contemporary Ballet of the San Martín Theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Who's Who - Guest Artists



Dante Adela (Herr Drosselmeyer)

Studied ballet and modern dance at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center after studying for five months at the Lou Conti Dance Studio (home of the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago) where he started. After a year at AADC he then got accepted to study at the North Carolina School of the Arts under full scholarship. After finishing school he danced with U.S. ballet companies such as

Orlando Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, and N.Y. Metropolitan Opera. In the U.K. with the Scottish American Ballet and Northern Ballet Theater. He recently finished a world tour with Cirque Du Soliel's "Dralion" as the lead character "Yao" (fire element) and can be seen in the film "Across the Universe."



Willett Pring (Tea Prince, Gypsy Doll, Mouse King)

Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Willett Pring began his ballet training at the Colorado Ballet Academy, where he studied for 11 years. During that time, he performed in numerous professional productions with Colorado Ballet, including The Nutcracker, The Wizard of Oz, and Romeo and Juliet. His performances with the Colorado Ballet Academy include Coppélia, Giselle, and The Sleeping Beauty. Willett has attended several

prestigious summer programs, including the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, Ellison Ballet Professional Training Program, Dutch National Ballet Academy, Colorado Ballet Academy, and the School of Nashville Ballet. Following his participation in the ABT JKO School Summer Intensive in 2024, he was invited to perform in American Ballet Theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet, appearing as the Groom in Act II. In 2024, Willett moved to New York City to join the renowned Ellison Ballet Professional Training Program, where he currently studies under Artistic Director Edward Ellison, Artistic Associate Jason Ambrose, and the distinguished faculty of Ellison Ballet. Willett is thrilled to make his debut at New England Academy of Dance and looks forward to sharing his passion and love for classical ballet with the audience.

Who's Who - NEAD Company 2025



Anna Marie Armijo



Ellie Briggs



Olivia Carofano



Emmeline DeMuth



Olive Gallagher



Lindsay Hanlon



Rebecca Harper



Samantha Heins



Kiki Horsburgh



Lucy Anne Kurtz



Juliet Lannamann



Kate Livengood



Kayla McCauley



Grace McKeown



Emma McPartland



Addie O'Reilly



Olivia Parker



Anna Paterson



Chloe Perkins



Cailin Prostor



Ava Schinella



Rebecca Schubert



Alex Thomas



Addison Welling

The Nutcracker

Synopsis:

Act I

Act I of *The Nutcracker* begins at a festive Christmas Eve party where Clara receives a magical nutcracker from her uncle, the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer. After the guests leave, Clara returns to the living room where she left her beloved Nutcracker and is swept into a dream. She battles the evil Mouse King, and the Nutcracker transforms into a handsome prince, leading her into the enchanted Land of Snow.

Act II

Act II of *The Nutcracker* takes Clara and the Nutcracker Prince through the Land of the Flowers to the Land of the Sweets. There, the Sugar Plum Fairy crowns Clara Princess, and welcomes them by presenting a series of delightful dances from around the world in their honor. After the grand celebration, highlighted by the Sugar Plum Fairy's famous Pas de Deux, Clara's magical journey comes to an end. She wakes up from the magnificent dream at home, reunited with her precious Nutcracker doll.

The Nutcracker 2025

Act I

Overture

THE TELLING OF THE NUTCRACKER STORY

Doctor Stahlbaum..... Jeff Hanlon

Little Clara Grace Patterson

Fritz Gwyneth Pancotto

Scene I: Party Scene

Sir Rover the 40th

Mack (the dog) Kurtz Teddy (the dog) Woodbury

Friday 7:00 *Saturday 4:00*

Saturday 11:00 *Sunday 4:00*

INSIDE THE PARLOR OF THE STAHLBAUM HOME: GERMANY, CHRISTMAS EVE 1886

Little Clara Grace Patterson

Fritz Gwyneth Pancotto

Party Scene Children.....

Darrow Appel Liliane Murphy

Gabriella Castellano Andie Nedeltchev

Aleena Chen Wilhelmina O'Donnell

Lucie Del Percio Alaia Ramos

Renee Greenberg Daley Simon

Lilly Jaworoski Margot Villalong

Gretchen Lardizabal JJ Walters

Parents

Frau Stahlbaum Lindsay Hanlon
Doctor Stahlbaum Jeff Hanlon
Tante Elise Von Trapp Chloe Perkins
Onkel Claus Von Trapp Cory Perkins
Countess Helga Torvald Anna Paterson
Count Karl Torvald Jonathan Paterson
Frau Greta Strobel Anna Marie Armijo
Doctor Otto Strobel Joel Armijo
Tante Anna Von Collenberg Olive Gallagher
Onkel Auguste Von Collenberg Tim Gallagher
Frau Hildegard Duttweiler Olivia Carofano
Herr Werner Duttweiler Nick Carofano
Frau Elise Tissot (Fri, Sat AM) Addison Welling
Herr Mumfried Tissot (Fri, Sat AM) David Welling
Frau Elise Tissot (Sat PM, Sun) Juliet Lannamann
Herr Mumfried Tissot (Sat PM, Sun) Tom Lannamann

Maids Samantha Heins, Ava Schinella
Toy Soldier Zoe Skrelunas
Herr Drosselmeyer..... Dante Adela
Floppy Doll Kayla McCauley
Kissing Doll Rebecca Harper
Gypsy Dolls Cailin Prostor, Willett Pring

Scene II

THE STAHLBAUM PARLOR JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Night Fairy.....

Juliet Lannamann	Kate Livengood
<i>Friday 7:00</i>	<i>Saturday 4:00</i>
<i>Saturday 11:00</i>	<i>Sunday 4:00</i>

Mouse King.....Willett Pring

Mice.....

Chloe Alarcon	Frieda Littlefield
Blaise Arnold	Gwen McLaughlin
Abby Blower	Emily Mendez
Scarlett Bonifacino	Callie Naumes
Darcey Carr	Daphne Oram
Nell Colban	Ruby Paran
Ryann Clutterbuck	Isobel Rosen
Vivienne Curry-Edwards	Margot Roth
Charlotte Forde	Mallory Ruth
Ava Greatorex	Pamina Rutigliano
Claire Jenkins	Liesel Spano
Ava Klats	Helena Villalong
Hope Lane	

Dying Mouse..... Caroline van Roden

Nutcracker Charles Scheland

Rats

Nicole Dolinak	Olivia Ozkaplan
Sophie Eddis	Zoe Skrelunas
Zara Hoffhine	Liv Takach
Maria Morley	Mila Zizic

Soldiers

Amelia Alfaro	Amelia Rizzo
Catalina Cossaro	Gianna Schinella
Amandine Cottrell	Liv Schubert
Avery Crawford	Lucy Skibitcky
Ariana Cucinella	Bea Small
Emma Donnelly	Caitlyn Smith
Eden Farr	Greer Spellman
Emily Fiedler	Coco Steele
Everly Friedman	Penelope Symons
Reese Halvorsen	Elsa Villalong
Lily Hodgson	Olivia Zhou
Emilia Leveque	Lily Zwick
Natalie Pinho	

Suspended Time

Clara Addison Welling
Nutcracker Charles Scheland

Angel Leaders.....

Sophie Eddis	Olivia Ozkaplan
Maria Morley	Gianna Schinella

Angels.....

Olivia Aleksa	Adaline Lardizabal
Brooke Armstrong	Lucy Lazorick
Eleanor Baldwin	Sophie Leach
Rosie Bevan	Eliza Lebovitz
Lucy Bisbee	Lily Lindner
Kennedy Bodner	Morgan Miller
Solene Cottrell	Liana Ouellette
Emma Daly	Hanley Pancotto
Ayla Ellis	Olivia Rodriguez
Apolline Fortier	Mary Saffi
Lillie Gallagher	Olivia Sainsott
Elisabeth Gorodetsky	Harper Sheehan
Beatrice Islamov	Margaret Snowden
Avery Jablons	Grace Stevenson
Shay Juhas	Lena Theodoridis
Madeline Laird	

Scene III

THE ENCHANTED LAND OF ICE AND SNOW

Snow Queen.....

Kate Livengood

Juliet Jannamann

Friday 7:00

Saturday 4:00

Saturday 11:00

Sunday 4:00

Snow Corps.....

Anna Marie Armijo

Kayla McCauley

Ellie Briggs

Grace McKeown

Emmeline DeMuth

Emma McPartland

Lindsay Hanlon

Addie O'Reilly

Rebecca Harper

Olivia Parker

Samantha Heins

Anna Paterson

Kiki Horsburgh

Chloe Perkins

Lucy Anne Kurtz

Cailin Prostor

Juliet Lannamann

Ava Schinella

Kate Livengood

Rebecca Schubert

Alex Thomas

Understudies.....

Lucy Spellman, Maeve Jackson, Liv Takach

The Voice Studio of the Performing Arts

Snow Choir Director Sarah Lee Michaels

Snow Choir.....

Melly Capaldi

Liesel Spano

Lili Carvajal

Kiara Suri

Lea Debernardis

Kaili Wakem

Lua Gaspar

NEAD Choir:

Leela Ghuman

Julia Morley

Eden Helmuth

Maria Morley

Angelie Krishnasamy

Ariana Cucinella

Sarah Michaels

Nicole Dolinak

Adelyn Pham

Emily Fiedler

Allison Pham

Everly Friedman

Avery Pham

Gwen Pancotto

Gavin Rafferty

Eden Farr

Anshika Saagi

INTERMISSION

During our 20 minute intermission,
Please visit our Nutcracker Boutique, flower stand, and concessions!

The Nutcracker 2025

Act II

THE LAND OF FLOWERS

Clara Addison Welling

Nutcracker Charles Scheland

Angel Leaders.....

Sophie Eddis

Olivia Ozkaplan

Maria Morley

Gianna Schinella

Dew Drop Fairy Olive Gallagher

Fairies.....

Kiki Horsburgh

Emma McPartland

Juliet Lannamann

Rebecca Schubert

Grace McKeown

Ivy.....

Amelia Alfaro

Emilia Leveque

Amandine Cottrell

Maria Morley

Nicole Dolinak

Olivia Ozkaplan

Emma Donnelly

Gianna Schinella

Sophie Eddis

Elsa Villalong

Zara Hoffhine

Roses

Emmeline DeMuth	Olivia Parker
Alice Dong	Ava Schinella
Clara Farr	Zoe Skrelunas
Samantha Heins	Carlotta Spano
Maeve Jackson	Lucy Spellman
Torie Kinahan	Liv Takach
Bianca Magratten	Alex Thomas
Catherine Maissen	Mila Zizic
Kayla McCauley	

Fuchsias.....

Catalina Cossaro	Gwyneth Pancotto
Avery Crawford	Grace Patterson
Ariana Cucinella	Natalie Pinho
Juliet Dorrington	Amelia Rizzo
Chadee Elgarrahy	Emma Rodriguez
Nourra Elgarrahy	Liv Schubert
Eden Farr	Lucy Skibitcky
Emily Fiedler	Bea Small
Everly Friedman	Caitlyn Smith
Renee Greenberg	Greer Spellman
Anaya Gupta	Coco Steele
Reese Halvorsen	Penelope Symons
Lily Hodgson	Olivia Zhou
Natalie Jones	Lily Zwick

***Pixies*.....**

Coco Colban	Julia Morley
Sofia DiRenzo	Annabelle Sawaya
Caroline Ewing	Amelia Sharp
Sophia Garrett	Piper Skibitcky
Hannah Howell	Larsen Simon
Quinn Kupersmith	Gabriella Sood
Charlie Loop	Charlotte Stinchcomb
Zoe Maier	Claire Tabbaa
Ashlyn Miller	Bonnie Tomasic

***Bluebells*.....**

Charlotte Billington	McKenna Jenkins
Frankie Bongiorno	Sabrina Kelly
Gray Candee	Isabelle Lapidus
Parker Feinberg	Veda Morrissey
Charlie Fusco	Emilia Rutligiano
Milena Harris	Evelyn Sapanski
Charlotte Hoffman	Andie Spadaccini
Marley Hyland	Uliana Tarasova

Scene II

***Sugar Plum Fairy*.....**Olivia Carofano

***Cavalier*.....**Michael Requena

***Crown Bearer*.....**Milena Harris

***Hot Chocolate from Spain*.....**

Anna Marie Armijo	Anna Paterson
Lindsay Hanlon	Chloe Perkins

Act II (continued)

Tea from China.....

PrinceWillett Pring

Alice Dong	Bianca Magratten
Clara Farr	Catherine Maissen
Maeve Jackson	Carlotta Spano
Torie Kinahan	Lucy Spellman

Understudy..... Zoe Skrelunas

Candy Canes from Russia.....

Amelia Alfaro	Lily Hodgson
Catalina Cossaro	Emilia Leveque
Amandine Cottrell	Amelia Rizzo
Avery Crawford	Bea Small
Ariana Cucinella	Caitlyn Smith
Emma Donnelly	Greer Spellman
Sophie Eddis	Coco Steele
Eden Farr	Penelope Symons
Emily Fiedler	Elsa Villalong
Everly Friedman	Lily Zwick
Reese Halvorsen	

Coffee from Arabia.....

Princess.....Ellie Briggs

PrinceTed Thomas

OdalisquesKiki Horsburgh, Alex Thomas

Mother Ginger.....Kate Nusslein

Ginger Cookies from Germany.....

Emalie Alfaro	Valentina Sacchi
Liliana Burciago	Bailey Schlarb
Clara Collingham	Lane Stevenson
Addison Kelly	

Marzipan from France.....

Rebecca Harper	Addie O'Reilly
Lucy Anne Kurtz	Cailin Prostor
Kate Livengood	

Understudies..... Kiki Horsburgh, Emma McPartland

Grand Pas de Deux

Sugar Plum Fairy.....Olivia Carofano

Cavalier.....Michael Requena

Bonbons from Switzerland.....

Delphine Day	Lilly Lazorick
Frances Ferguson	Eloise Meza
Nell Kopald	Adeline Nikic

FINALE..... Full Cast

New England Dance Theater
Season Patrons

Clara and Sugar Plum \$5,000 +

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Courtney and David Welling

Snow Queen \$2,500 - \$4,999

David and Elizabeth Branch
Martin and Jennifer Kurtz
Spencer and Sara Schubert
The Zwick Family

Dew Drop Fairy \$1,000 - \$2,499

John and Anne Briggs	Brian and Laura Jenkins
Cristina and Nick Carofano	The Lannamann Family
The Cottrell Family	The Lardizabal Family
The DeMuth Family	The Livengood Family
Tim and Jen Gallagher	John and Erin Morley
Charles and Kimberly Harper	Jen Kearney and Doug Parker
Lauren and Jeff Jackson	Ashley and Scott Simon, Jr.

Night Fairy \$500-\$999

Jonathan and Stephanie Forde	The Skibitcky Family
The Hoffhine Family	The Small Family
Kelly and Paul McKeown	The Spadaccini Family
Rand Niederhoffer and Adam Lapidus	The Tabbaa Family

Flower Fairy \$250 - \$499

The Alfaro Family	Megan and Joseph Schinella
The Burciago Family	Megan and Kevin Sheehan
The Cossaro Family	The Steele Family
The Donnelly Family	The Stevenson Family
The Crowe / Heins Family	

New England Dance Theater
Season Patrons

Party Scene \$100 - \$249

Deborah and Joel Armijo
Newland and Gayle Baldwin
The Daly Family
The Friedman Family
The Gallagher Family
Andrea and Mark Halvorsen

Emily and John Hyland
Michelle Korn
Margaret Mahoney
Cory and Zibby Perkins
The Symons Family
Cathy and Richard Townsend

Ginger Cookie \$50-\$99

The Castellano Family
Jennifer and Ian Dorrington
The Grzyski Family
Agnieszka Kacperczyk
Melissa Merrill
Sandra Miklave
Lauren and Matt Nussbaum
The Snowden Family

Matching Gifts

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NEDT wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our Patrons, Community Partners, and Matching Gift companies. Your generosity has made this 40th anniversary performance extra special! If you have not yet had a chance to give, we hope you will consider a financial gift to support the outreach and mission of New England Dance Theater. Your support keeps the arts alive in our community!



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NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

We thank these organizations and families
for their ongoing grant gifts, which greatly impact and support
The Nutcracker ballet performances
and other community outreach and enrichment programs.

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HANLON
Family



NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

**DORIS DRIVER
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No. 67
New Canaan

Thank You!

NEDT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are deeply grateful to our Board Members for their unwavering support, thoughtful leadership, and tireless commitment to our mission. Their guidance continues to shape the path forward, and their contributions behind the scenes help make everything we do possible.

Jennifer Kurtz, *Board Chair*

Frances Ortiz, *Artistic Director*

Ginna Ortiz, *Artistic Director*

Ted Thomas, *Artistic Director*

Anne Briggs, *Audience Development*

Cris Carofano, *Merchandising & Fundraising*

Elizabeth DeMuth, *Enrichment*

Jen Gallagher, *Secretary & Special Projects*

Kimberly Harper, *Treasurer*

Mary Beth Livengood, *Grants & Sponsorships*

Zibby Perkins, *Communications & Community Outreach*

Sara Schubert, *Volunteer Collaboration*



Not pictured: Kim Harper & Ted Thomas



N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

THANK YOU to the hundreds of volunteers who make this magical production possible! We could not do it without you - from sewing costumes to makeup, lobby decor to patron support, from assembling bouquets to selling keepsakes and concessions, and all the backstage care - truly a team effort!

Special thanks to our Committee Chairs for helping our production run smoothly.

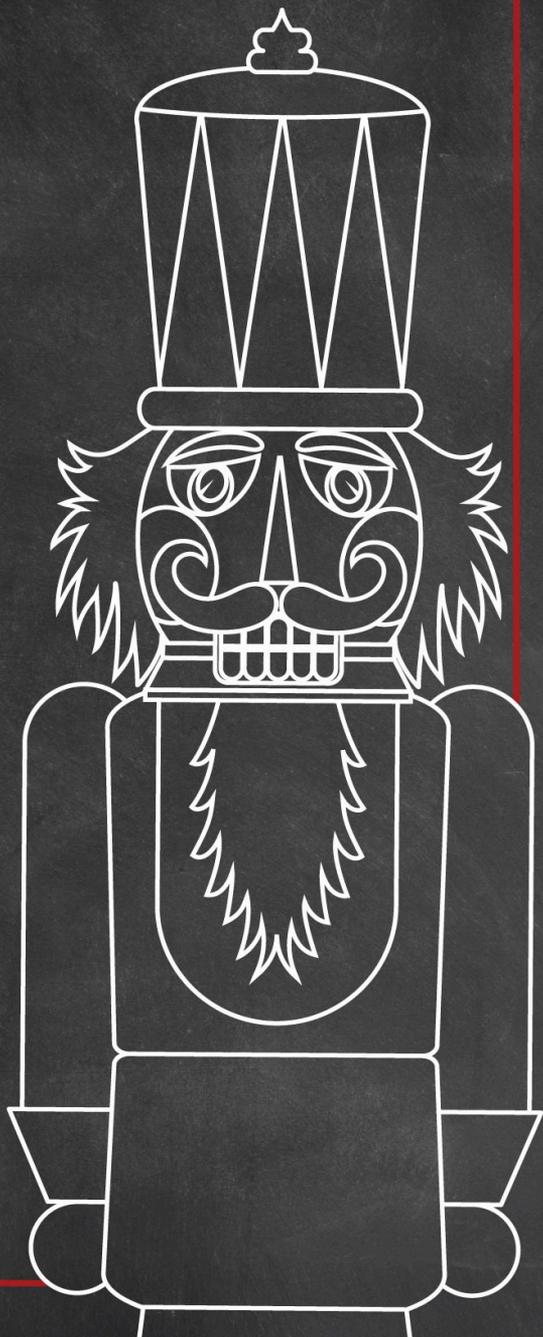
- Backstage CateringKimberly Harper, Jennifer Kurtz
- Backstage ChaperonesRebecca Feinberg, Maia Sapanski
- BoutiqueSuzanne Heckt, Zed Hoffhine
- ConcessionsAmy Donnelly, Kelly McKeown
- DecorationsHanna Farr, Jennifer Gallagher,
Jaime Smith, Jenny Zwick
- FlowersNatalie McPartland, Mackie Spadaccini
- Hair & Make UpCara Kelly, Ashley Rutigliano
- Orchestra HospitalityAlexandra Spellman
- UshersMike Spellman
- Volunteer CoordinatorSara Schubert

Your commitment and generosity of time have been invaluable!



Congratulations to the cast and crew of

The Nutcracker



Walter Stewart's
your fresh local market

Monday – Friday
7:30am – 7:30pm

Saturday
7:30am – 7pm

Sunday
8am – 6pm

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Sugar Plum Tea Parties



*To Our Ballerina Seniors; we are so proud of you!
Thank you for filling our studios and stages with your heart,
your dedication, and your joy! Your leadership, kindness, and
love for dance have lifted our entire NEAD family!
As you step forward into your next chapter, know that we are
always cheering you on. Have a magical Nutcracker Season.
With all our love, The Directors -
Ginna, Frances & Ted*



We adore watching you dance Kate!



*Congratulations
on a successful
Nutcracker.*

*Love,
Mom, Dad,
and Maggie*

Clara, McKenna, and Andie,

Way to go!

Your love of dance sparkles on stage!

We're so proud of you!

*Love,
Your families*





Olivia

All your years of dance,
countless magical
Nutcracker memories—
each step a story,
each moment a gift.
We are endlessly proud of
you!

Be free,
Dance boldly,
Dream always.
Congratulations!
Love, Mom, Dad and
Joseph



SHINE BRIGHT,
QUINN!

WE LOVE WATCHING YOU SPARKLE
AS A PIXIE!
LOVE,
MOM, DAD, BENNETT & ELIAS



Sofia.

If you can dream it, you can
do it! We are so proud of you!



Love,
Mom and Dad



New England
Dance Theater

Happy 40th
Anniversary

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AND ANY QUESTIONS

Dear Bailey,

Your love and talent
shines through, keep
moving those dancing
feet.



Love,
Mama, Dada, Dylan,
Grandpa, and Susu



Bravo Olivia

A shimmering Snow, an elegant Rose

We love you and are so proud

Xo, Your Family

Dear Parker,



Here's to another magical Nutcracker!
We are so incredibly proud of you and so
excited to watch you light up the stage
as a Bluebell!



Reach for the stars, sweet girl. We
can't wait to watch you shine.

We love you!!

xoxo, Mommy, Daddy, Greysen & Monty



Fairfield County

Dance Festival

July 2026

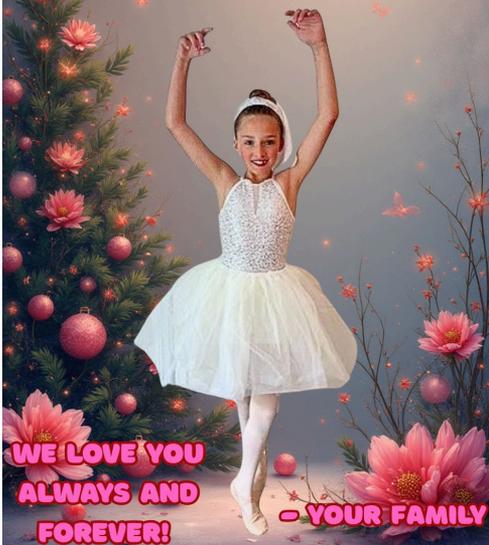


*Charlotte,
you are the
Magic*

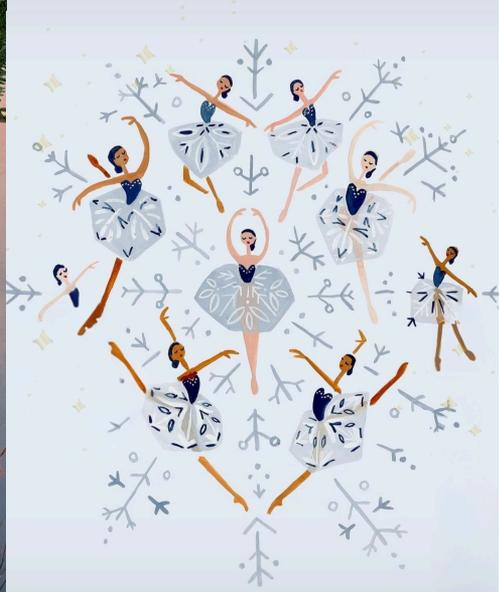
We are so proud of you!
"Merde" to our little mouse!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Benny

Visit: fairfieldcountydancefestival.org

CONGRATS ON YOUR FIRST
NUTCRACKER, CHARLIE!
KEEP LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE
THROUGH IN EVERYTHING YOU DO.



WE LOVE YOU
ALWAYS AND
FOREVER!
- YOUR FAMILY



Alex,
From the magic of snow to the elegance of
Odalisque, you bring each role to life with heart
and artistry.
You light up the stage, and we're endlessly
proud of the beautiful dancer and person
you've become.
We love you,
Mom, Dad, London and Lola



Andie
NEDELTCHEV

Your dreams are meant
for chasing far & wide

Congratulations,
Andie! We love you
so very much!

Your greatest fans,
Mom, Dad & Gabe



A photograph of three young ballerinas in purple leotards and skirts performing a dance move in a room with a Christmas tree. The room has a high ceiling with a skylight, a fireplace, and a window with red curtains. The scene is decorated with gold glitter and stars. The text is overlaid on the image.

Congratulations
Liv, Lucie, and JJ!

We are so proud of the
beautiful dancers you are
becoming.

We love seeing you shine on stage.

With Love
From Your Families

Congratulations

*New England Academy of Dance
on your
40th Anniversary production of
The Nutcracker!*

New Canaan



Masons



ARIANA

Dear Ariana,

*We are so very proud of you and
your hard work!*

You always shine on stage.

We will always be your biggest fan!

Love you always,

Mom, Dad, Melina & Libby



Anna,
Congratulations on
your 13th Nutcracker!
It has been such a
joy to watch you
dance.
Keep chasing your
dreams!

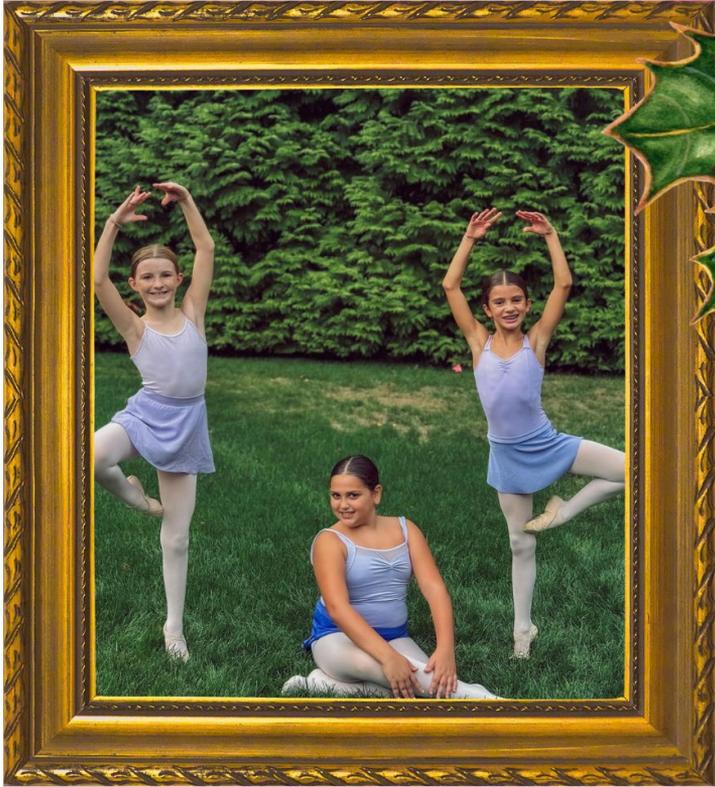
*With love,
Mom, Dad & Jamie*



Larsen.

Congratulations on
another wonderful
Nutcracker season!
Pixie power!!

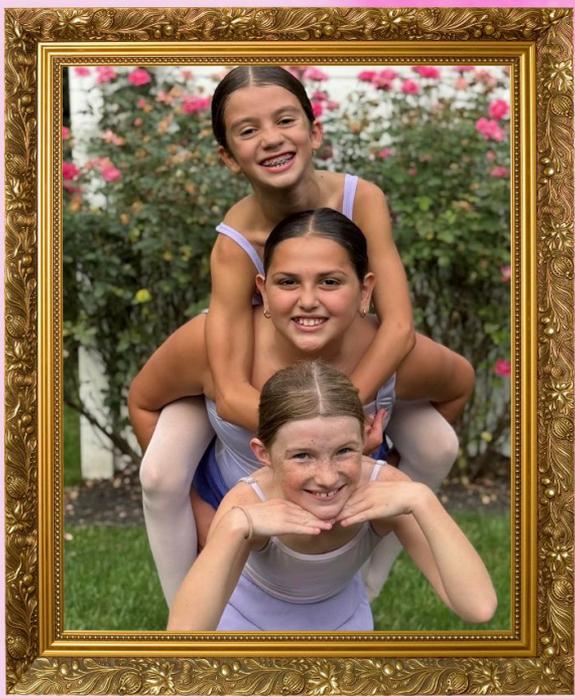
*Love,
Mom and Dad*



**Daley,
Lilly,
Natalie,**

**Congratulations
on a fabulous
Nutcracker
season! We
can't wait to
watch you light
up the stage!**

**Love,
Your Families**





Darcey



Congratulations on another magical Nutcracker performance!

*What a sweet little mouse.
You dance with such grace
and Joy.*



*Love,
Mom & Dad*

*"Everything you need
is inside you."*



*Alaia,
May all of your
dreams come true.*

*Love,
Dawn, John and Charlie*

Addison,

Congratulations on
your final Nutcracker!
We couldn't be more
proud of the hard
work and dedication
that led you here.
Savor every moment
as Clara!

Love Mom, Dad,
Hannah + Stone



Dear Kayla,
We are so proud
of you!

Love Mom, Dad,
Mimi, Papa,
Aunt Danielle &
Christopher



Evie,



We are so proud of your
dedication and love for ballet.



Congratulations on your fourth
year of Nutcracker performances,
we love to watch you dance!



CONGRATULATIONS

Lucy & Greer

WE ARE SO PROUD OF HOW HARD YOU
HAVE WORKED & HOW MUCH
YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED!

MERDE!

We Love You, Mom, Dad & Mack



*Congratulations to our
Little Clara! We are so
proud of your hard
work, amazing grace,
and dedication.*

*Watching you grow as
a dancer brings us
endless joy! Shine
bright, Gracie Girl!*

*With all our love, your
family*



Becca,



from tiny twirls to Marzipan Magic...



**We are so proud of your hard work and dedication.
We love you! Mom, Dad, Natalie and William**



Congratulations Ellie!

Lots of love,
Dad, Mom, Jack, Chris, Finn and Ollie

Bea



*Well Done, Bea!
We love watching you Dance!
With love, Mom, Dad & May*

Emma,



**Congratulations!
What a thrill to
watch you
perform en
pointe.
From Solider to
Ivy to Candy
Cane, you
shined bright!**

**We are your biggest
fans! xoxo
Mom, Dad & Caroline**

Emmeline,



*Everything
is magical
when it
snows.*

*Especially
you.*

**We love you,
Mom, Dad, Christopher & Bashy**

Sweeter and sweeter with each passing year...

*Congratulations
to our bon bon ...
xo, xo
Mom & Dad*



Adeline

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her soul is fierce. her heart is kind. her mind is brave.



Congratulations
Addie!

You bring us so much joy
watching you shine.

We love you!
Mom, Dad, Whit, Tucker, Cooper & Griffin

*Cailin,
Congratulations on another
wonderful Nutcracker!
We love watching you dance!*

*Love,
Mom, Dad,
Aidan & Nana*



NUTCRACKER 2025

*Congratulations,
Maria!*



OUR LITTLE SWAN. PARIS 2014.

*We're so proud of you
and love you so much!*

LOVE, MOM AND DAD

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BOOK
HOLIDAY
TODAY!





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Cheers to
NEAD!



Celebrating 40 wonderful
years of The Nutcracker!

Rebecca ~

On or off the stage...
you are as beautiful as new
fallen snow
& bring magic into our
lives daily.
We love you!



The holiday season sparkles a little brighter when we see you both grace the stage in The Nutcracker. Your performance fills our hearts with wonder, joy, and the true spirit of the season. Watching you dance is pure enchantment, and our pride in you both knows no bounds. Keep shining Amelia and Emalie.

Love, Mami and Papi

Coco Steele

We are very proud of you!
Mom, Dad & Callan



Aleena,

You shine on and off
the stage and will
forever be the lead in
our hearts. Dream
big, work hard- your
magic makes dreams
come true!



Love,
Mommy, Daddy
Lucy & Roy



Frances.

To our sweetest Bon-Bon — your joy,
hard work, and sparkle make the
Nutcracker extra magical this year.



we are so proud of you!
Keep dancing with joy.
With Love,
Mom, Dad, Henry,
Will, & George



Liliana –

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your hard work and love for ballet truly shine through. We love you so much.

- Mama, Papa, Francisco and Lady





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NEAD and wishing them a successful
performance and happy holiday season!*

Xo Kristin and team

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Avery,

You shine on and off the stage.
We're so proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Peyton

Congratulations on

an extraordinary

Nutcracker season!

Your work ethic

and talent are

inspiring. We love

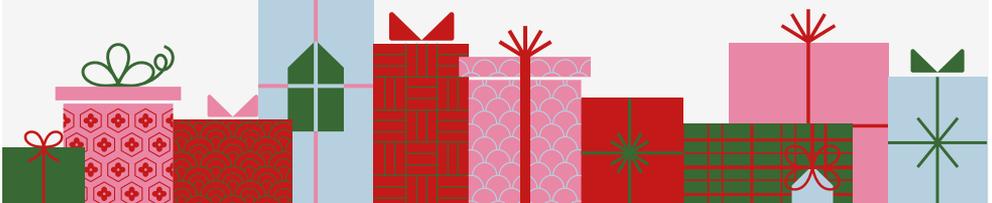
you and are so

proud of you.

Sophie



*Sincerely,
Mama, Daddy, Nana, Daisy
and Duke*



Congratulations Chloe! A



Eleven years of ballet.
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Spring performances.
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Grateful for NEAD mentors:
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High standards, big hearts, like family.
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Camaraderie that lasts forever.
Happiness. Twirl. Joy. Pirouette.
Dance into your next chapter.
The star of your own stage.
Celebrate senior year, we'll watch,
then cry with pride when you fly.
We love you.
Mom. Dad. Cams. Colin.





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Congratulations Maggie
on your first Nutcracker!
You are our angel!



Love, Mom, Dad & Clara



Congratulations to
our shining star!

We are so proud of your
beautiful performances as Ivy
and as a Rat
in this year's Nutcracker.
Your dedication, grace, and hard
work light up the stage with
every step.

Keep chasing your dreams and
sharing your passion!

You inspire us!

With all our love and admiration,
Mum, Dad, James & Charlie and
your Grandparents





Gretchen — We are so excited for our little Party Girl! Congratulations on your 4th Nutcracker!

*Love- Mom, Dad,
Adaline & Liesl*



Adaline — Congratulations on your 1st Nutcracker! We are so proud of our Angel!

*Love- Mom, Dad,
Gretchen & Liesl*



**LIV
BROOKLYN
TAKACH**

**YOU SHINE IN
EVERYTHING
YOU DO.**

HAPPY 15TH, TOO.

**ALL OUR LOVE ALWAYS,
MOM, DAD,
DEAN, NORAH + ROSIE**

*We are proud of you
Zoe*



love, your family

Anna Marie,



*Enjoy the last Nutcracker of your incredible
14-year journey.*

*Love,
Momma & Father* ❤️



Samantha

We're so proud to watch you bring
Maid, Roses and Snow to life.
Your dedication shows in every step.
Congrats, NEAD on 40 years!

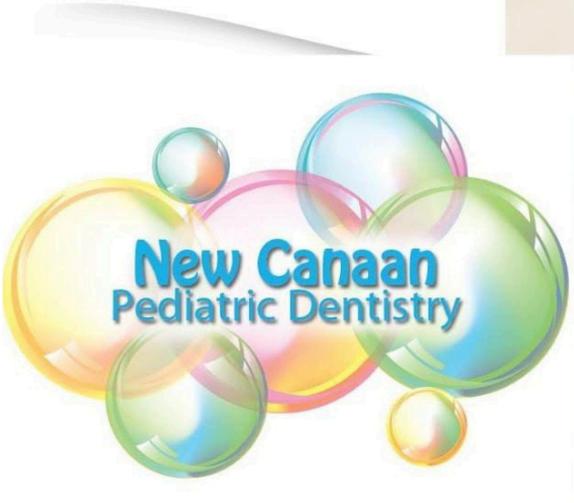
Love, Mom, Dad, Caitlyn and Vivian



Maeve

We are so proud of you
sweet girl!
We can't wait to watch
you dance.
Congratulations on
another Nutcracker!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Graham



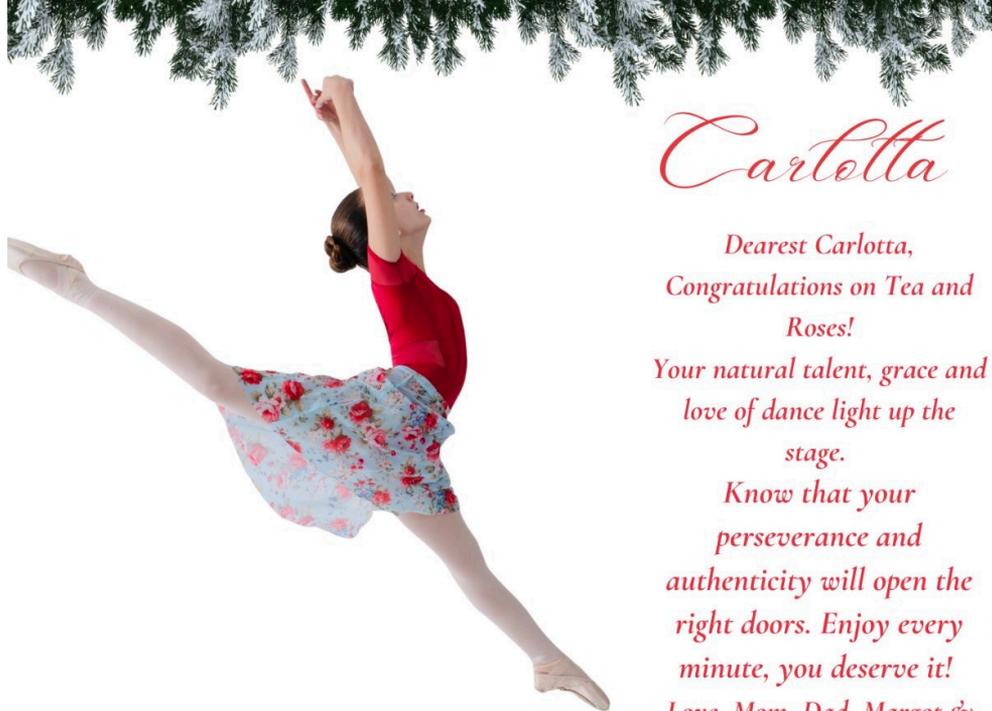
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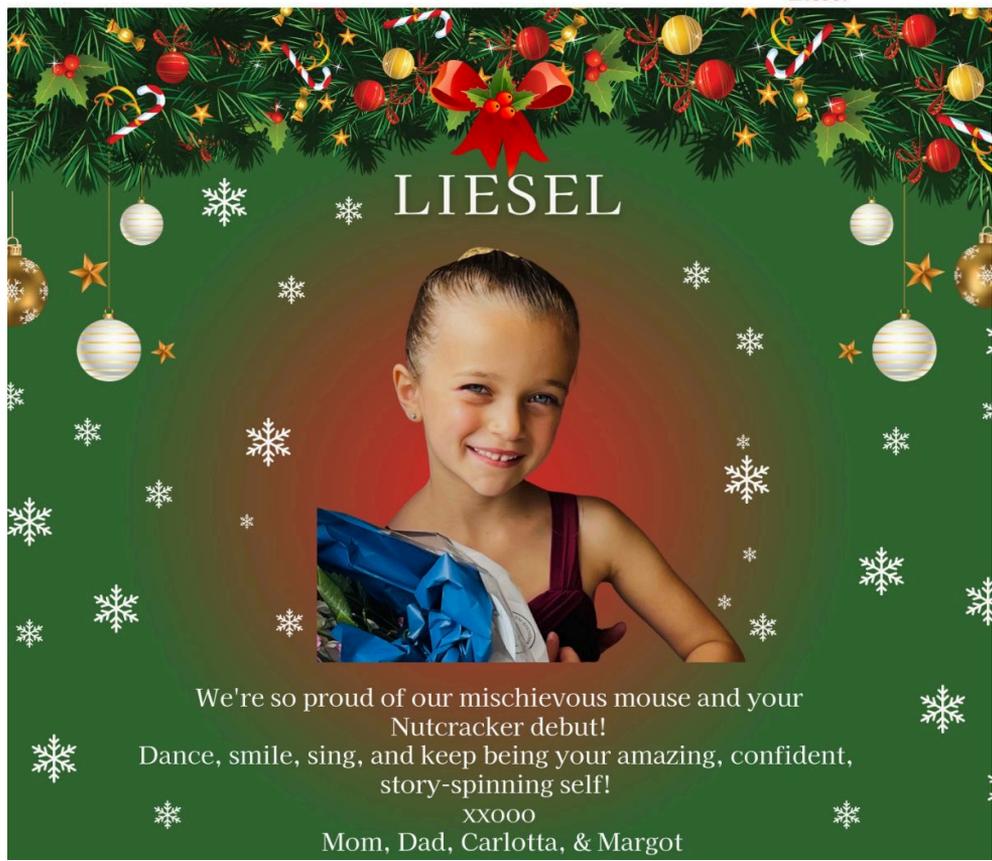
Carlotta

*Dearest Carlotta,
Congratulations on Tea and
Roses!*

*Your natural talent, grace and
love of dance light up the
stage.*

*Know that your
perseverance and
authenticity will open the
right doors. Enjoy every
minute, you deserve it!*

*Love, Mom, Dad, Margot &
Liesel*



LIESEL

We're so proud of our mischievous mouse and your
Nutcracker debut!

Dance, smile, sing, and keep being your amazing, confident,
story-spinning self!

XXXX

Mom, Dad, Carlotta, & Margot

Mila



Congratulations
Love,
Tata, Mama,
Marin & Logan



CHARLOTTE, CAROLINE, & AMELIA



Congratulations to our sweet Pixies. We are all so proud of you!
Love,
The Stinchomb, Ewing, and Sharp Families



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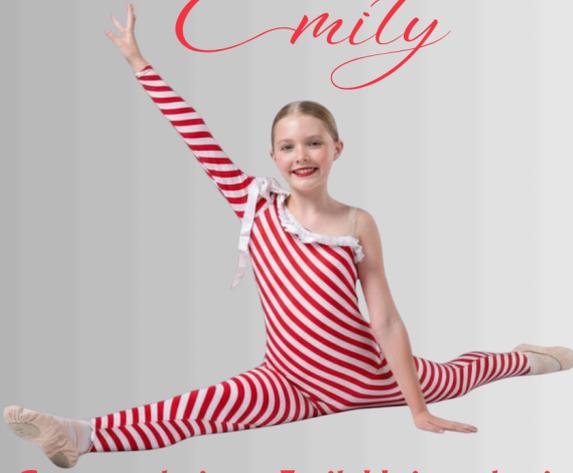
www.ctdancephysicaltherapy.com

Congratulations Olive! From your days as an Angel to becoming Dew Drop, your hard work has truly blossomed. Savor every second—from the magic on stage to backstage moments and dancing with Dad in The Party Scene.



Love, Dad, Mom, and Gordon

Emily



Congratulations, Emily! It is such a joy to watch you on stage. Keep working hard and shining bright!

Love, Mom, Dad, John Michael and Bitsy!

CONGRATULATIONS
CHARLOTTE!



MOMMY, PAPA
AND ABBY
ARE SO PROUD
OF ALL YOUR
HARD WORK
ON THE
NUTCRACKER
PERFORMANCE
THIS YEAR!



Emmeline, Lucy
& Piper

We cannot wait to watch you light up the stage together in *Waltz of the Flowers*. Light up the stage, you blooming ballerinas!

xoxo





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Juliet



We love watching you dance. We are so proud of all your hard work all of these years. We love you so much and know you will dedicate yourself to building a beautiful life! Congratulations on your Senior Nutcracker!! Merde!

Love always, Mom and Dad



Catherine

Congratulations on another remarkable Nutcracker run. We love the joy you take in dance.

You are a true artist and an inspiration.

Much love,

Mommy, Papa, Andrew,
Philip, Boots and Luna



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Lindsay



WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR AMAZING
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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU
FOR THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES.

LOVE,
DAD, MOM, ALEXIS & BROOKE



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