

The Tallahassee Ballet illuminates the holidays with 'The Nutcracker'

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Treat yourself to one of the holiday season's most treasured and adored performances, The Tallahassee Ballet's The Nutcracker featuring The Tallahassee Ballet Orchestra. Share the excitement and magic with your family and friends while trees grow larger than life right before your very eyes and snowflakes delicately fall on dancers twirling and leaping across the stage.

This year's production of The Nutcracker is nothing shy of extravagant, from the Dew Drop Fairy and the Rat King, to the handsome Nutcracker Prince and dancing snowflakes.

Former dancer and now mother, Shannon Grooters, explains that, "As a young girl, I remember the first time my mother brought me to see The Tallahassee Ballet's performance of The Nutcracker. It was my first foray at a full-length ballet performance and inspired me to stick with ballet. Just a few years later I found myself on that same stage for 10 consecutive Nutcracker seasons. Now as a mother of two, we have made The Nutcracker one of our holiday traditions. Year after year, I look forward to seeing my little ones' reaction to the wonder, magic and excitement of the show."

Adapted from the German Romantic author E. T. A. Hoffmann's tale, The Nutcracker explores the journey of a little girl named Clara who is given a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. She encounters and contests the frightful Rat King before embarking on a voyage with the Nutcracker Prince through the Kingdom of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets.

Dancers Abigail Centers and Clare Molina will be playing the role of Clara while Julian Cabrera will play the role of the Nutcracker Prince. The Tallahassee Ballet is also pleased to welcome Andrea Harvey and Sebastian Serra of Orlando Ballet as our Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.

Born in Philadelphia, Sugar Plum Fairy Andrea Harvey trained at the Allegheny Ballet Company until 2006 when she joined the Professional Division at Pacific Northwest Ballet. In 2004, she was awarded the Barbara Weisberger Award in Classical Dance. Andrea joined Orlando Ballet II in 2008. This is her fifth year with the Orlando Ballet.

Sebastian Serra, taking on the role as Cavalier, began training with Roberto Rodriguez. He continued his education at the "Escuela Especializada en Ballet Julian E. Blanco," and also with Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, becoming an apprentice there, and later in 2008, a company member. That fall, he accepted a two-year traineeship with Boston Ballet. He was awarded an Honorable Mention in the NFAA Young Arts program, and 1st prize in classical and contemporary in the Regionals of the YAGP.

The Tallahassee Ballet's version of The Nutcracker will not disappoint with Artistic Director, Tyrone Brooks, and Resident Choreographer, Kathryn Cashin, working together to create a vibrant and energized rendition of this timeless tale. "In addition to the favorite moments of The Tallahassee Ballet's The Nutcracker, scenes have been enhanced with new dances highlighting TTB's soloists, particularly its males," remarks Cashin.

From the expressive dancers, eloquent costumes, awe-inspiring set designs, and exquisite orchestra, The Nutcracker encompasses something for everyone! Artistic Director Tyrone

Brooks tells us to “Revel in the magic of the holiday classic of The Tallahassee Ballet’s The Nutcracker. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince will take you on an exciting journey with exciting characters and bright colors of your favorite divertissements.”

Three performances will be held in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall with the latter two performances including live music by The Tallahassee Ballet Orchestra led by Principal Conductor Douglas Fisher, conductor and coach of the Florida State Opera since 1990. The first performance will be an abbreviated version without an orchestra designed specifically for children.

Full-length performances of The Nutcracker are Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec.14 at 2:30 p.m. The special abbreviated children’s version will be December 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Tickets may be purchased at GetNutcrackerTickets.com or calling 224-6917 ext. 21.

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