

Presents

The Nutcracker



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The Nutcracker

A ballet in Two Acts by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

JPAS Symphony Orchestra
Maestro Dennis G. Assaf, Conductor

Diane Laizer Carney, Director

Act I Prologue

Street Scene

Charles Ferguson, Gerald Lester, guests and children

Act I Scene One

The Silberhaus Ballroom

<i>Uncle Drosselmayer</i>	David Stidd
<i>Clara Silberhaus</i>	ToniAnn Chetta Laborde
<i>Fritz Silberhaus</i>	Arthur Rusnak
<i>Mrs. Silberhaus</i>	Camile Lavoie Von Hoven
<i>Mr. Silberhaus</i>	Frank Von Hoven III
<i>Maids</i>	Melanie Ahern, Dawn Mezzanares Palazzo, Stephanie Perry
<i>Clara's Friends</i>	Teresa Fardella, Rachel Lester, Emma Serpas, Cate Tallant
<i>Young Ladies</i>	Norah Harris, Sanii Payne, Mya Thomas, Sophia Zollinger
<i>Guests</i>	Lorraine Chetta, Cheryl O'Sullivan, Abbey Pipes, Karen Beck Zollinger, Gerald Lester, Joshua Robertson, Stephen Schulz, Gregory Wright
<i>Children</i>	Katelyn Albaral, Hailey Aucoin, Charlotte Bergeron, Abigail Brocato, Molly Dunn, Elizabeth Eshlemann, Ava Hymel, Molly Hymel, Rylee Keys, Raina King, Celeste Lavigne, Nora Lavigne, Andres L'Esperance, Maslen L'Esperance, Ian McLetchie, Mia Montelibano, Charlotte Rudolph, Charlotte Shelton, Sutton Tallant, Evangeline Todd-Norton, Adalyn Ural, Malia Watts
<i>Assistant to Uncle Drosselmayer</i>	Chloe Lavoie
<i>Harlequin Dolls</i>	Amelia Dunn, Chase Zibilich
<i>Little Nutcracker</i>	Cate Tallant
<i>Captains</i>	Amelia Dunn, Alyssa Haney, Abbey Pipes, Cate Tallant
<i>Nutcracker</i>	Charles Ferguson
<i>Mouse King</i>	Gerald Lester
<i>Adult Mice</i>	Lorraine Chetta, Mae Cowden-Garofalo, Therese Fayard, Zoe Kanga, Robyn Kessler, Chloe Lavoie, Stephanie Perry

Mice Amelia Adgate, Madelin Alexander, Izaura Amos, Arabella Bergeron, Mosoba Bidima, A'Kyah Blutchter, Kyndal Davis, Ava Hymel, Cyanne Joseph, Andres L'Esperance, Amali Lloyd, Margo Montelibano, Mia Montelibano, Victoria Perry, Kylah Prevost, Olivia Rice, Maddie Rudolph, Natalie Tallant, Sutton Tallant, Bethany Tiruneh, Evangeline Todd-Norton

Gingerbread Cookies Kyndal Davis, Ava Hymel, Andres L'Esperance, Mia Montelibano

Adult Soldiers Melanie Ahern, Amelia Dunn, Sanii Payne, Lisa Richardson, Holly Watts, Jenny Winters, Sophia Zollinger, Karen Beck Zollinger

Soliders Hailey Aucoin, Isabella Bagnetto, Norah Harris, Bella Hinyub, Maslen L'Esperance, Emma Grace Madison, Olivia Martinez, Ian McLetchie, Sarah Miller, Taylor Sterbcow, Gabriella Zuppardo

Act I Scene Two The Kingdom of Ice

Snow Queen Cheryl O'Sullivan

Clara **TONIANN CHETTA LABORDE**

Prince **DANIIL GAIFULLIN**

Reindeer Aubrey Berthelot, Diamond LeBoeuf, Freddranay Napoleon, Taylor Sterbcow

Snow Princesses Claire Escher, Dawn Mezzanares Palazzo, Cate Tallant, Camille Lavoie Von Hoven

Snow Princes Seth Mathews, David Rochon, Frank Von Hoven III, Chase Zibilich

Snow Corps Melanie Ahern, Mae Cowden-Garofalo, Amelia Dunn, Teresa Fardella, Alyssa Haney, Farrah Johnson, Katherine Juneau, Robyn Kessler, Abbey Pipes, Lisa Richardson, Emma Serpas, Holly Watts, Sophia Zollinger, Karen Beck Zollinger (school show – Chloe Lavoie)

Vocals Hannah Bonnette, Bree Hollis, Corinn Hovis, Lee Ann Hovis, Rachel Hovis, Riley Tafaro

15 Minute Intermission

Act II The Kingdom of Sweets

Princess of the Kingdom of the Sweets Emma Serpas (Sat.)
Teresa Fardella (Sun.)

Clara and Fritz ToniAnn Chetta Laborde and Arthur Rusnak

Uncle Drosselmayer David Stidd

Pages of the Lollipop Ava Hymel, Maslen L'Esperance, Ian McLetchie, Mia Montelibano

<i>Lollipop Fairy</i>	Hailey Aucoin
<i>Angels</i>	Amelia Dunn and Sophia Zollinger with Anna Apperson, Isabella Bagnetto, Aubrey Berthelot, Norah Harris, Hannah Hoth, Diamond LeBoeuf, Emma Grace Madison, Olivia Martinez, Freddranay Napoleon, Victoria Perry, Mya Thomas, Gabriella Zuppardo
<i>Sugar Plum Variation (school show)</i>	Dawn Mezzanares Palazzo
<i>Corps of Princess of Sweets</i>	Melanie Ahern, Mae Cowden-Garofalo, Amelia Dunn, Teresa Fardella, Farrah Johnson, Lisa Richardson, Emma Serpas, Cate Tallant, Holly Watts, Sophia Zollinger, Karen Beck Zollinger
<i>Corps of Kingdom</i>	Therese Fayard, Zoe Kanga, Robyn Kessler, Chloe Lavoie, Sanii Payne, Stephanie Perry, Jenny Winters
<i>Variation Dolls</i>	
<i>Little Nutcracker</i>	Cate Tallant
<i>Little Mouse King</i>	Amelia Dunn
<i>Chocolate from Spain</i>	Alyssa Haney, Camille Lavoie Von Hoven and Chase Zibilich
<i>Coffee from Arabia</i>	Rebecca Delery Chauvin, Dawn Mezzanares Palazzo, David Rochon
<i>Corps</i>	Amelia Dunn, Teresa Fardella, Sanii Payne, Emma Serpas, Sophia Zollinger, Karen Beck Zollinger Joshua Robertson, Stephen Schulz, Zack Taylor, Frank Von Hoven III
<i>Chamberlain</i>	Gerald Lester
<i>Turkish Delight (Lokum) from Istanbul</i>	Cate Tallant with Melanie Ahern, Mae Cowden-Garofalo, Amelia Dunn, Therese Fayard, Farrah Johnson, Zoe Kanga, Chloe Lavoie, Sanii Payne, Lisa Richardson, Jenny Winters, Sophia Zollinger, Karen Beck Zollinger
<i>Tea from China</i>	Teresa Fardella, Abbey Pipes, Emma Serpas
<i>Marzipan from Persia</i>	Katherine Juneau, Camille Lavoie Von Hoven, Chase Zibilich
<i>Ginger from India</i>	Andrea Lester Aucoin and Zack Taylor with Hailey Aucoin, Clara and Fritz and Isabella Bagnetto, Norah Harris, Ava Hymel, Maslen L'Esperance, Ian McLetchie, Emma Grace Madison, Olivia Martinez, Mia Montelibano, Sanii Payne, Victoria Perry, Taylor Sterbcow, Natalie Tallant, Mya Thomas
<i>Honeybread (Pryaniki) from Russia</i> (choreography by Cheryl O'Sullivan; costumes by Komenka)	Cheryl O'Sullivan, Joshua Robertson and David Rochon with Mae Cowden-Garofalo, Teresa Fardella, Rachel Lester, Abbey Pipes, Cate Tallant, Karen Beck Zollinger

Sugar Plum Fairy

STEPHANIE MURRISH GAIFULLIN

Prince

DANIIL GAIFULLIN

Waltz of the Flowers

Rosebuds

Claire Escher, Dawn Mezzanares-Palazzo
(school show – Rachel Lester)

Flowers

Teresa Fardella, Alyssa Haney, Katherine Juneau,
Rachel Lester, Abbey Pipes, Emma Serpas, Cate Tallant,
Camille Lavoie Von Hoven (school show – Rebecca Delery Chauvin)

Finale Flowers

Melanie Ahern, Isabella Bagnetto, Aubrey Berthelot,
Therese Fayard, Farrah Johnson, Zoe Kanga, Robyn Kessler,
Chloe Lavoie, Sanii Payne, Stephanie Perry, Lisa Richardson,
Mya Thomas, Holly Watts, Jenny Winters

The Ballerina

Clara

TONIANN CHETTA LABORDE

Flowers Cavalier

DAVID ROCHON

Finale

Apotheosis

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BIOGRAPHIES

DIANE LAIZER CARNEY (DIRECTOR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF BALLET HYSSELL), a native New Orleanian who has been dancing, choreographing and teaching for 76 of her 79 years, was recently honored by the Big Easy Foundation with the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Classical Arts as well as Outstanding Ballet Presentation for 2014. She also directed the Big Easy award-winning production of *The Nutcracker* for JPAS in 2015. She received her MFA in theatre and MSW in social work from Tulane University. Her PhD work at N.Y.U. was cut short by the unexpected death of her husband, Hal Carney. Her cherished mentors were Jay Kleindorf, Bob Fleshman, Stocker Fontelieu, Frank Monachino and Maestro Vincenzo Celli (she received a teaching certificate from Maestro Celli who was a student of Enrico Cecchetti). One of her fondest memories was choreographing with Jay Kleindorf the legendary 1966 production of *West Side Story* for Le Petit Theatre. Diane has extensive experience in acting, dancing and choreographing for commercial theater, television and motion pictures. Ms. Carney has taught theater classes at Tulane University, Loyola University and Delgado Junior College. She has choreographed and designed productions for Tulane Opera Theater and Summer Lyric Theater, UNO Theater, Le Petit Theater, Dashiki Theater and Jefferson Performing Arts Society. Ms. Carney was the Founder and Artistic Director of the York Company Youth Ballet (now Ballet New England), receiving grants from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Group of United Technologies and the Maine Commission of the Arts and Humanities for a two year touring program of Maine. She has received certificates of recognition from Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine for her artistic direction of *The Nutcracker*. For many years she was Associate Artistic Director of Ballet Hysell and Director of Ballet Hysell School, and is currently Artistic Director of Ballet Hysell. Diane is very proud of her son, Ian Carney, who was a principal on Broadway in *Movin Out* and now has the Lightwire Theatre with his wife, Eleanor Bernard Carney; her step-son, Devon Carney, who was Principal Dancer for the Boston Ballet and presently Director of the Kansas City Ballet; and her step-daughter Regan Carney Buszkiewicz, a well-known ceramic artist on the Gulf Coast. She thanks them for their love and support. EQUITY, AGVA, ATA, AAVW (Inactive)

RACHEL LESTER (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) has been dancing with Ballet Hysell since 1988. She received Hysell's Sara Abrams scholarship award in 1993. Rachel also trained as a gymnast since age three and coached competitive artistic gymnastics for 10 years. After graduating from Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, she attended UNO and Southeastern University. She graduated from Delgado with a degree in Allied Health as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She has served as Diane Carney's assistant director for *The Nutcracker* since 2008.

STEPHANIE MURRISH GAIFULLIN (SUGAR PLUM FAIRY) was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She grew up in New Orleans where she began her training with Harvey Hysell, Diane Carney, Gayle Parmelee, and studied privately for one year with Maestro Vincenzo Celli (the last student of the legendary Maestro Cechetti). She is an alumnus of the Nutmeg Ballet. As a result of the Prix de Lausanne, she was the first American to train on full scholarship at the Stedelijk Instituut voor Ballet, directed by Madame Jos Brabants in Antwerpen, Belgium with Maria Metchkarova from Kirov Ballet. As a student she had the opportunity to work with Madame Joy Newton from the Royal Ballet while performing the role of Princess Aurora in the *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as toured with the Royal Ballet of Flanders. She also received private coaching from Donna Bonasera, Xenia Kosorukov, Sasha Banderenko, and Bella Kovorskaya. She was an apprentice with the New Orleans Ballet, has been a Soloist with the Cincinnati Ballet, Principal Ballerina with the Ballet de Santiago in Chile under the direction of Ivan Nagy, Charleston Ballet Theatre under the direction of Jill Eathorne-Bahr, and for eleven years she and her husband, Daniil Gaifullin were Principal couple with the Sarasota Ballet of Florida directed by Robert De Warren, Sasha Yapparov and coached by Pavel Fomin. She was a finalist in the New York International Ballet Competition, during which a documentary was made following her throughout the competition. It aired on the CBS show, "Dancing with a Dream" with Charles Kerault. She is in the edition of Who's Who in Entertainment, received the award for "Artistic Achievement" from Personalities of America, competed in the USAIBC, and is the 2007 recipient of the YAGP 'Outstanding Choreographer's Award'. As former Artistic Directors of the Lone Star Ballet and owner's of the Ballet Amarillo Academy, she and her husband have staged and choreographed ballets such as *The Nutcracker* with the Amarillo Symphony, *Firebird*, *Paquita*, *Gala of Stars*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Aurora's Wedding*, *Swan Lake*, and *La Traviata* with the Amarillo Opera as well as numerous outreach performances within the community. She has also been guest teacher with various schools within the USA and was part of the guest teaching faculty at the 2010 International Dance School of the USA International Ballet Competition that is held every four years in Jackson, Ms. Ms. Murrish began her teaching career in 2004 while she still was performing. From 2010-2016 she served as a main faculty member and supervisor of the Open Division of the TBCDE. In addition to beginning her freelance career as a guest Ballerina, Teacher and Coach, she is also a primary ballet teacher with Theatre Arts in Broken Arrow, OK. She and Daniil, have a wonderful son named, Nikolas who is a member of the Kansas City Ballet II.

DANIIL GAIFULLIN (PRINCE) was born in Okha, on the island of Sakhalin, Russia. He is a graduate of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, Russia. His teacher was a former Soloist of Bolshoi Ballet Theatre, Vladimir Koshelev. Throughout his dance career he was a Principal dancer with Donetsk Ballet Theatre in Ukraine, Ballet Mississippi, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Ballet de Santiago in Chile, and for 11 years he and his wife Stephanie Murrish, were the Principal ballet couple with Sarasota Ballet of Florida directed by Robert De Warren and coached by Pavel Fomin. He has had the opportunity to work with V. Shumeikin, I. Nagy, S. Vikarev, T. Tichonova and Boris Eifman. He was a competitor in 1987 Ukraine ballet competition, a non-competing partner in 1990 USA IBC, and Semifinalist in 1994 USA IBC in Jackson, Mississippi. He has performed a wide variety of classical and contemporary ballets including selections of pas de deux, and some character leading roles in *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Chopiniana*, *Coppelia*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Paquita*, *Raymonda*, *Prokofsky's The Nutcracker* and *Vespri*, *Cinderella*, and more. In 2003 he accompanied his wife to the 20th Anniversary gala of the N.Y.I.B.C., choreographing her solo "Forgotten Moment" which was reviewed as being exquisite. He has also guest taught for various schools in the USA and was part of the guest faculty in 2010 International Ballet School of the USA IBC that is held every 4 years in Jackson, Mississippi. 2016 Principal guest artist with Illinois Dance Conservatory. He and his wife Stephanie reside in Tulsa and have a wonderful son, Nikolas

TONIANN CHETTA LABORDE (CLARA) has trained extensively over the past 20 years in all forms of dance with a main focus on classical ballet. She is a New Orleans native from Oglala Lakota (Sioux Tribe) and Sicilian descent. She began her training with Ballet Hysell in New Orleans at a young age, under the direction of Diane Carney and the late Harvey Hysell. Mrs. Laborde has also trained with Houston Ballet Academy, Boston Ballet, The Rock School for Dance Education, and Joffery Ballet in New York. She graduated from American University in Washington, DC. While in DC she had the opportunity to perform under Adrienne Clancy of Clancy Works Dance Company and Vladimir Angelov. She has danced with Ballet Hysell since her return to New Orleans in 2011; performing most recently in the 2015 Big Easy Award Winning *Bandoneon*, 2016 Big Easy Award Winning *Snow Queen* and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, and the Big Easy Award Winning *Concerto in F*. Mrs. Laborde is the past Director of the River Region Ballet and has taught and choreographed locally for

many years. She is currently Ballet Mistress and Assistant to the Artistic Director for Ballet Hysell.

DAVID ROCHON began his dance training with Karen Hebert and continued his studies under the instruction of Harvey Hysell. Mr. Rochon performed in many of Mr. Hysell's productions including *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia* and *Giselle*. His credits include Jefferson Performing Arts Society, Mid-City Dance Project, River Regions Ballet, Austin Ballet Ensemble, Louisiana Dance Theatre, and national guest appearances with Christy Currey. He is a graduate of Tulane University School of Business and works as Advisor – Vice President Investments J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC.

DAWN MEZZANARES-PALAZZO is a native of New Orleans who began her dance education at the age of two. She has performed with The New Orleans City Ballet, The Jefferson Ballet (under the direction of Myra Mier) and The Delta Festival Ballet as a member of their youth corps. Dawn also danced competitively throughout the country earning high honors and numerous scholarships. She also has many film and commercial credits to date. At age 13, she decided to focus on classical ballet and joined Ballet Hysell in 1990. Under intensive training with the late Harvey Hysell, she performed principal and soloist roles in *Nutcracker* and *Giselle* and many of the company's original works. Dawn has enjoyed teaching throughout the city for the past 20 years. Many of her students have achieved great success as competitive dancers and have professional careers in dance. Teaching has been the most rewarding part of her dance journey and she enjoys passing on her knowledge and love for the art. Currently Dawn performs with Ballet Hysell and Jefferson Performing Arts Society. For the past two years her own choreography was selected by Southern Voices and presented in their showcase at the Contemporary Arts Center. Recently, she has danced for Cheryl O' Sullivan, The River Regions Ballet and the Big Easy Award winning Anne Burr Dance Company. Last year, Dawn danced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's *Christmas Spectacular*. She is the mother of two sons, Sam and Max. Special thanks to my husband Vic for all your love, my parents for their endless devotion and to Karen Hebert for your guidance and inspiration.

ARTHUR RUSNAK found his love of dancing with Dancer's Pointe school of dance in Metairie and continues as a 4th year competition student in tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop and contemporary dance. Previously he appeared in *Alice in Wonderland Jr* and *Seussical Jr* with JPAS and *Brundibar, a children's opera* with New Orleans House of Opera. Earlier this year, he won a national finals scholarship for Hollywood Vibe dancing competition. Arthur is 8 years old and a third grade student in St. Christopher School. Arthur would love to thank Ms. Diane Carney for giving him this amazing opportunity and to all wonderful cast members for taking him under their wing.

REBECCA DELERY CHAUVIN began her ballet training with Kathy Gamble and continued her instruction at Ballet Hysell. Rebecca has performed with Ballet Hysell for over 20 years. She has danced with the Anne Burr Dance Company since 1993, and has also performed in DramaRama, Confederacy of Dances, Tsunami Dance Company, and D'Project. She is currently performing in Third Eve under Monique Moss. Rebecca is on the faculty of the NORD/NOBA Center for Dance and has been teaching for over 10 years.

AMELIA DUNN, age 14, is delighted to dance her first senior role with Ballet Hysell as a doll in this year's staging of *The Nutcracker*. Previously, she has been cast in most of the junior leads, including Clara in 2014, among other Ballet Hysell productions. This year, Amelia is also thrilled to share the stage with the 610 Stompers in the LPO *Holiday Spectacular*. She is a freshman at Archbishop Chapelle High School. Amelia would like to thank: Ms. Diane Carney for allowing her this opportunity; Ms. Karen Hebert and her teachers at NOBA; her fellow cast members; & her family for their love and support.

CLAIRE ESCHER started dancing with Ballet Hysell in 2001. She trained with Jaqueline Fry, Diane Carney and Harvey Hysell. She has performed many roles over the years in *The Nutcracker* including the Sugar Plum Fairy in 2009 and Clara in 2003. She graduated from Tulane University with a Bachelors of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and a Bachelors of Arts in Dance. She is currently a fitness instructor at Barre Code. She is so happy to be back performing this year!

TERESA FARDELLA began dancing at the age of three under the direction of Sylvia and Sandra Labourdette in Metairie, LA. She has also trained and performed with Cangelosi Dance Project, The Dancer's Workshop, and studied modern dance at LSU. Upon returning to New Orleans in 2012, she has performed with D'Project, Ballet Hysell, Storytellers Dance Project, Jefferson Ballet Theater, and Loyola Ballet. Most recently, she has presented her choreography with Storytellers Dance Project and D'project's *Southern Voices: Dance Out Loud*.

ALYSSA HANEY holds an MA in Dance Theories & Practices from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, where she served as a department TA and taught courses in ballet and dance appreciation. She received a BFA in Dance and History from Tulane University, where she performed in faculty works as a member of Newcomb Dance Company. She currently teaches for the Loyola University Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, as

well as the Loyola Preparatory Arts Program, and has performed with Ballet Hysell and Eddy Villalta's D'Project, Inc. since 2010. Her choreography for D'Project, Inc. has been performed in *Southern Voices: Dance Out Loud, Whispers & Voices, The Death Monologues, and Let's Dance: A Modern Dance Tribute to David Bowie*.

KATHERINE JUNEAU began her training at Giacobbe Academy of Dance under the direction of Maria and Joseph Giacobbe. She also studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Ms. Juneau attended Louisiana State University where she graduated with a B.A. in English and a Minor in Dance. During that time, she performed with the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre and the LSU Dance Ensemble. Thereafter, she attended Louisiana State University Law School where she obtained her Juris Doctorate and Degree of Civil Law. Since her return to New Orleans in 2010, Ms. Juneau has danced with Ballet Hysell, appearing in *The Nutcracker* and the Big Easy Award winning production of *Concerto in F*. She has also performed with the Loyola Ballet in "Kingdom of the Shades" from *La Bayadere*, excerpts from *Nayada and the Fisherman*, and the Big Easy Award winning production of *La Vivandere Pas de Six*. She lives in Lakeview with her husband Matt, their son James, and their rescued rat terrier Noni.

SETH MATHEWS spent his youth training at the San Francisco Ballet. He continued his dance studies at Tulane, performing for the Newcomb Dance Company from 2011 to 2013. He is very excited to begin his first year dancing with Ballet Hysell.

CHERYL O'SULLIVAN is a native of New Orleans and a very active member of the New Orleans dance community. She has performed with the Loyola Ballet since 1982 and has taught ballet in the Loyola Preparatory Ballet Program from 1995 to 2014. Cheryl is a co-director and performing member of the Komenka Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble, as well as a performing member and choreographer of D'Project. Additionally, Cheryl has performed with the New Orleans Ballet Ensemble, Ballet Hysell, Lelia Haller Ballet Classique and Story Ballet Magic. Cheryl has been active in bringing dance education programs to school children across the Gulf Coast area through the New Orleans Ballet Association, Ballet Magic and Komenka, and has also taught ballet at several local schools.

ABBIE PIPES is performing in her third *Nutcracker* with Ballet Hysell. Abbey is also a proud member of the Komenka Ethnic Dance Ensemble. She would like to thank Mrs. Carney for the opportunity to dance with Ballet Hysell and Cheryl O'Sullivan for being a wonderful teacher and mentor. She would also like to thank her husband David and two wild boys, Simon and Henry, for their support and encouragement in dancing.

JOSHUA ROBERTSON has been dancing since he was eight years old throughout the New Orleans area. This is his first appearance in the JPAS production of *The Nutcracker*. He has danced with Komenka Ethnic Dance Ensemble for six years and has participated in four international tours with the company. He is grateful for this opportunity and thanks everyone who came to see this amazing production. He also wants to give a shout out to his family and friends for all of their support – love ya and enjoy the show!!!

EMMA SERPAS began dancing at the age of three, but found her true passion for ballet when she attended the After School Ballet Program in St. Bernard Parish at the age of eight. From there she attended New Orleans Dance Academy where she began training under the direction of Jacqueline Fry and her staff. Emma danced for several years with the Children's Dance Theater performing excerpts from *The Nutcracker*. She has been a part of several dance companies that have competed nationally, where she has won platinum and overall awards in various forms of dance. Emma first danced Ballet Hysell's *The Nutcracker* in 2000 where she was the tree mouse. Since then Emma has danced as an Angel, Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Arabian, Chinese, Clara's Friend, Rosebud and Clara. She most recently danced in *A Tribute to Harvey Hysell*. Currently Emma lives in Chalmette with her son, Ethan. She is currently attending Delgado Community College in hopes of becoming a pharmacy technician.

DAVID STIDD was born in New Orleans. At the age of four, he started tap dancing and when he turned six he was studying ballet with Ballet Master Harvey Hysell. During his time with Ballet Hysell, he was able to train under the direction of Diane Carney, Harry Usher (acting), Maestro Celli and Harvey Hysell. David has a degree in Theater from Tulane University. While at Tulane, he was involved in six main stage productions as a performer and designer/carpenter. David was on staff with the Shakespeare Festival at Tulane and also worked for Tulane Summer Lyric. In 1995, David was offered a chance to do *Peter and the Wolf* for Brick City Ballet. That part turned into a three-year contract where he worked on ballets such as *Jonah, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Rumpelstiltskin, Dance of the Seven Vales, and Beauty and the Beast* (as Spoon with Disney), as well as working with Ballet Hysell and Ballet South. In 1998, David was cast in the touring production of *Guys and Dolls* as Harry the horse, and in 1999 moved over to do Pedro in *Man of La Mancha*. David has also been a guest artist in acting with other ballet companies most notably Cleveland-San Jose Ballet and Dance Devine. His theatre credits include: *The Rivals* directed by Buzz Podewell, *A Street Car Named Desire* directed by Mike

Johansson, *Damn Yankee's* directed by Gary Rucker. David also has many lighting and set designs he has done over the years. David has won the award for lighting for *A Night of Dance* from the Ybor City. David has been in over 100 shows including, ballets, musicals, plays, TV and movies.

CATE TALLANT has lived in New Orleans since 2005. She has been dancing since the age of 4 and is a 10th year student of Rhonda Edmundson School of Dance and a 6th year student of Myra Mier School of Ballet/ Jefferson Ballet School. She has been honored to dance with Ballet Hysell since 2010. In 2011, she was crowned Petite Miss Dance of Louisiana and went on to place 4th Runner-Up Petite Miss Dance of America in Dance Masters of America's 2011 National Competition. In 2014, she was crowned Teen Miss Dance of Louisiana. Her performances include Ballet Hysell's *The Nutcracker* from 2010-2015, Myra Mier School of Ballet's *Hansel & Gretel* and *Snow Queen*, Moscow Knights' production of *Cinderella*, and JPAS's productions of *Mary Poppins* and *West Side Story*. The summer of 2014 she had the privilege of studying in New York City with the American Ballet Theater. In 2016 she was crowned Teen Miss Dance of Louisiana 2017. She would like to thank her family and support system for their love and guidance.

CAMILLE LAVOIE VON HOVEN has danced with Ballet Hysell since 2000. She participated in their productions of *Scheherazade*, *Coppelia*, and the Big Easy Award winning production of *Concerto in F*. She was most recently seen in many roles in the Ballet Hysell *Fall Concert*, *Tribute to the Choreography of Harvey Hysell*, and before that in their production of *The Nutcracker*. She is a high school math teacher at Isidore Newman School and has been dancing for 20 years. She would like to thank Diane for giving her so many amazing opportunities and especially her friends, family and her husband Frank for always supporting her in everything she does.

FRANK VON HOVEN III is excited to be performing in *The Nutcracker*. He recently performed with Ballet Hysell in *Concerto in F*. He was also most recently seen with The Big Easy Boys starring in *Let the Good Times Roll* and *Under the Boardwalk* at Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts. He also starred in River Region Drama Guild's production of *Footloose* as Rev. Shaw Moore. Other credits include JPAS production of *Fiddler on the Roof* as a bottle dancer, as Aaron in Rivertown Repertory Theatre's Big Easy Award winning production of *Chicago* and Don Kerr in their production of *A Chorus Line*. He also starred in Rivertown's production of *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings* as Frankie. He would like to thank Diane for the opportunity and his family, friends and his wife Camille for their love and support.

CHASE ZIBILICH began his training with Giacobbe Academy and performed with Delta Festival Ballet. In 1993, Mr. Zibilich joined Ballet Hysell. He has performed in numerous ballet productions including *Giselle*, *Concerto in F*, *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *Petruska*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*. He was a member of the Louisiana Association of Dance Masters and Dance Masters of America. Mr. Zibilich has been an official judge for the International Miss Pageants, and has judged numerous dance competitions. He has also danced in musicals, films, and Mardi Gras balls. Mr. Zibilich currently teaches ballet classes and workshops throughout South Louisiana. He is currently employed with LSU Cardiovascular Center of Excellence.

KAREN BECK ZOLLINGER is delighted to perform in *The Nutcracker* for the ninth consecutive year with her daughter Sophia, and recently appeared in *Concerto in F* this summer. Before becoming a mom, she performed in numerous concerts under the direction of the late Harvey Hysell as a soloist for more than 10 years. She first appeared in *The Nutcracker* 26 years ago, and also performed in Ballet Hysell's full-length productions of *Giselle* and *Coppelia*. She also danced with the Loyola Ballet and Komenka Ethnic Dance Ensemble, performed in musicals at Tulane Summer Lyric, Le Petit Theatre, Loyola University and Jefferson Performing Arts Society, and taught ballet at several local schools for more than 20 years. She thanks Diane Carney for bringing her back on stage and for making it possible to share the love of dance with her daughter. She also thanks her husband, Jeremy, and her son, Antonio, for their patience, love and support.

Special Thanks

Anne Burr, Ian Carney, Carol Haynes, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kessler, Dennis Assaf and the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, Komenka Folk Dance Ensemble, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lester, Charles Ferguson, Chase Zibilich, Mr. and Mrs. George Escher, CNA Foundation, Melanie Ahern, Karen Beck Zollinger, Oksana Nimkoyoh, Marilyn Hayden and volunteers.

Special Thanks to Participating Dance Schools:

A Time to Dance, Cindy Ory Dance Studio, COSP The Dancers Studio, AA Dance Studio, New Orleans School of Ballet, New Orleans Ballet Association, NORO, Diane Barnett Academy of Dance, Kelli's Kreative Dance, Giacobbe, Debby Dellehay, Dance Co Ltd, Dancer's Pointe, Off Broadway Dance Studio, Kathy Gamble Classical Ballet School, Young Dancers, Niakikii, Jazzy Fusion, Young Audiences, Sarah Duax, City Park Move and Dance, Rhonda Edmundson School of Dance, Kenner Recreation Department, Helena Hosch School of Dance, Encore Dance Studio, Jefferson Ballet School/Jefferson Ballet Theatre, Komenka Ethnic Dance

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION STAFF

Executive/Artistic Director	DENNIS G. ASSAF
Managing Director	NICHOLAS FREDERICK
Director	DIANE LAIZER CARNEY
Associate Director	TONIANN CHETTA LABORDE
Assistant Director	RACHEL LESTER
Director of Acting	DAVID STIDD
Original Choreography, Costumes	HARVEY HYSELL
Additional Choreography, Costumes	DIANE LAIZER CARNEY
Studio Stage Manager	MELANIE AHERN
Stage Manager	ELLEN LIPKOS
Lighting Designer/Lightboard Operator	DIANE BAAS
Sound Engineer	KELLY TOWNSEND
Master Electrician	SAM SANTOIANNI
Production Manager	JAMES JENNINGS
Technincal Director	BRIAN DEBS
Orchestra Personnel Manager	MEL ROGERS
Deck Chief/Fly Captain	BRIAN DEBS
Fly/Deck Crew	ROBERT (BILL) CAMP
Fly/Deck Crew	CURTIS FLIEGEL
Fly/Deck Crew	JAMES JENNINGS
Fly/Deck Crew	CYRIL MA
Fly/Deck Crew	JONATHAN PERRY-MARX
Fly/Deck Crew	NATHAN NORRIS
Spotlight Operator	SHELBY CLEMENS
Spotlight Operator	SAM SANTOIANNI
Rehearsal Assistants	DAVID STIDD, CHERYL O'SULLIVAN, KAREN BECK ZOLLINGER, STEPHANIE PERRY, DAVID ROCHON, CAREY TURNER MACKIE
Costume/Backstage Coordinator	KAY LESTER
Backstage	MARILYN HAYDEN
Costume Maintenance/Construction	KAY LESTER, RACHEL LESTER, CHERYL O'SULLIVAN, CHASE DESIGNS
Hand Sewing	DAWN MEZZANARES PALAZZO
Production Photographer	JOHN B. BARRIOS
Video Production	BILL BLANKE

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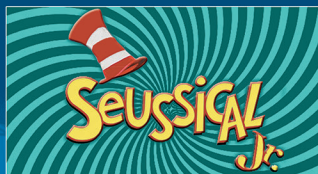
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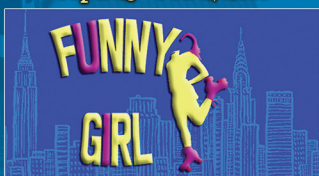
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