



### **WELCOME TO THE 24th ANNUAL NUTCRACKER!**



Ballet Etudes Families and Patrons.

To say that 2020 has been a year like no other, would be an understatement. The arts world has been devastated by COVID19, and Ballet Etudes has not been excluded. However, as dancers often do.... we did not give up or give in! In October we announced our partnership with BalletProject. TV, in producing a cinematic production of The Nutcracker. This year's version, The Nutcracker: a Pandemic Tale, marks Ballet Etudes's 24th production of the show!

As the new board president, I could not be prouder of the Ballet Etudes Board of Directors and the Artistic Directors, who spent countless hours making lemonade out of some pretty sour lemons. The dancers jumped right in, albeit with a facemask, and embraced the new direction of the show.

This year's production has a new twist! Clara has the Russian flu. Her beloved Christmas Eve party has been canceled and she is confined to her home. See how Clara endures her Christmas Eve illness and what her journey will be like this year...

We hope you enjoy the show!

On a separate note, I would like to make a personal plea for support from our community and local businesses. Without your support we will be unable to continue to bring you such productions. Please consider partnering with Ballet Etudes, by becoming a member of our Patron Program! Every penny we receive is used to support the Company's performances and outreach programs.

I thank you in advance and look forward to an amazing season!

Stephanie Aksdal President, Ballet Etudes



Ballet Etudes Board of Directors

President: Stephanie Aksdal Vice President: Vacant Treasurer: Dani Summers Secretary: Stacy Brookhyser

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Huntington Academy of Dance Director: Kimberly McEachern

Artistic Director: Sasha Robertson

Assistant Artistic Directors: Bridgette Burnett, Madison Simons

Managing Director: Kimberly McEachern

Artistic Advisors: Marnell Himes-Ushijima, Megan Pulfer

Administrative Assistant to the Artistic Directors: Megan Conlay



#### **HOW CAN I SUPPORT BALLET ETUDES?**

Ballet Etudes seeks support from those who have a vested interest in the quality and continued development of the performing arts. Please support Ballet Etudes by:

- Attending a Ballet Etudes performance
- Designating Ballet Etudes through United Way payroll deductions.
- Become a Patron. We accept cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or PayPal.
- Donate through Amazon Smile.
- Employee Donation Matching programs
- Donations of goods and services
- Participation in a variety of community based events and programs
- Participation on the Board of Directors

YES! I want to be a part of building a strong foundation for the performing arts.		Name(s):	
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**Gary Joyce** 

Muriel Joyce

Gail Hobson

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# **Appreciations**

Managing Director, Rose Center Theater: Tim Nelson Technical Director and Lighting Designer: Chris Caputoo

Sound Engineer: Trevin Stephenson Stage Manager: Carly Manno Stage Crew: Thomas Hinchee

Volunteer Coordinator and Program Cover Design: Susie Ng

Wardrobe Mistress: Cheryl Beasley Costume Coordinator: Jen Russell Storage Manager: Brandy Mapel Transportation Lead: Jeff Russell

Transportation Crew: Kazu Cardenas, Steve Davey, Jason Hunter, Jake Kuns, Dan Miles, Eric Yang

Sets and Drops: Ballet Etudes, Grosh Scenic, "Grandpa" Jim Wallace, Glenn Ushijima, Jason Mapel, Kim Ganier

Props: Jana Acciacca, Brandy & Jason Mapel, Jim Wallace, Lori Davey

Check-in Volunteers: Julie Rodriguez, Krista Glenn, Alejandra Cardenas, Jill Grundstrom

Side Stage Lead: Isa Woolums

Side Stage Crew: Lori Davey, Mayumi Okura, Eriko Kurimoto

Green Room Leads: Dani Black, Erin Jasper

**Dressing Room Lead:** Tara Gayler **Supervision:** Susie Ng, Angie Graves **Makeup Crew Leader:** Rebecca Ishii

Merchandise Crew Leader: Stacy Brookhyser Ticket Coordinators: Elisa Hagen, Lisa Hager

**Promotions:** Christine Wendl

Rehearsal Space Donated by: Huntington Academy of Dance

**Drosselmeyer's Tuxedo Donated by:** Friar Tux

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Performance Videography: Tom Badoud

Company Photos & Performance Photography: Kennedi Simons, Collyns Photography

PPE Donations: Mapel Family, Halligan Family, Polito Family, Schneider Family, Smith Family, Stephanie Kovaleski,

Wendl Family

# Our Mission:

Ballet Etudes is a non-profit youth ballet company providing dancers character development through a professional performance experience. We provide outreach programs to enrich the arts community and expose a new generation to the beauty of ballet.

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

www.BalletEtudes.com

The Nutcracker: A Pandemic Tale 2020 • 5

This production of *The Nutcracker* would not be possible without the hard work of all of our crew members as well, from makeup to side stage to dressing rooms and more. To those of you who may not be named here, please know that your efforts are incredibly appreciated.

Thank you so much!!

### **HISTORY OF BALLET ETUDES**

It all began 24 years ago....Well, actually... It really began more than 24 years ago.

Before Ballet Etudes began, the highest level dancers at Huntington Academy of Dance were called "Apprentices." They performed Nutcracker excerpts at the studio, schools, and community centers. Gary Joyce performed Drosselmeyer in a purple sweatsuit! The Apprentice dancers performed every single role in the second act. No one realized that they were learning much more than Ballet. Instead, they spent their Saturdays in the studio nursing sore muscles, and became a family – the family that would become Ballet Etudes.

Beginning with the Artistic Director and our staff. With Marnell Himes-Ushijima's vision and the support of the founders, Gary and Muriel Joyce took the lead on Artistic Direction, and Ballet Etudes was born. The company offered students the opportunity to grow in artistry and theatrical presentation with the larger-scale productions. Funds were raised through our generous supporters, commissioning our very own one-of-a-kind Parlor drop and Christmas tree that magically grows and lights up! And, we rehearsed and danced with new purpose. We touched audiences over generations as families made Ballet Etudes' Nutcracker their holiday tradition.

And things began to evolve; we had incredible Artistic Directors over the years. In addition to Marnell Himes-Ushijima, Gary and Muriel Joyce, we were joined by others such as Jewell Tweeton-Donnelly in 2000 and Sofia Carreras in 2002.

In 2003, Miss Judith Hawkesworth became Artistic Director during a time of transition for the company. She brought the company to new heights, and Ballet Etudes experienced incredible growth under her leadership as she began casting young children in the spring productions. The next year, Marie de la Palme joined the artistic staff and created the story line that we still use in our Nutcracker today.

Kimberly McEachern came back to Ballet Etudes as Artistic Director in 2006, and Julie Ertl and Tami Simons joined her. Ballet Etudes grew by leaps and bounds. Miss Kimberly and Miss Julie created several new ballets for the company including Bug's Life, Mulan, and Miss Kimberly's favorite, Candyland. We continue this dancing tradition today.

It does not stop there. In 2012, we sponsored our first Community Outreach Program. Eight years later, we are teaching after-school classes at three different schools for children who would otherwise not get the chance to learn about dance.

Ballet Etudes dancers become teachers, and then our teachers become Directors – this is a testament to the success of our program. Miss Sasha Robertson, having danced in our Nutcracker, is now our Artistic Director and brings you the Nutcracker. Over the past 8 years, Miss Sasha has exposed our dancers and audiences to the great classical ballets: Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Cinderella, along with other ballets such as A Knight's Quest for the Spanish Princess, Aladdin, Little Mermaid, Jungle Book, and Peter Pan.

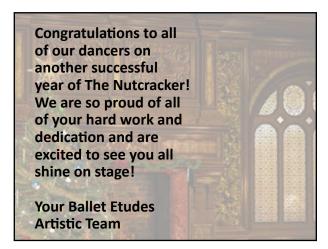
And it still does not stop there. Ballet Etudes dancers have become doctors, attorneys, business owners, professional dancers and so much more. The kids you see on stage – they are all a part of our present and our future.

This is who we are, and where we came from.

#### To our graduating senior:

Special congratulations and lots of love to you, Jeslyn. The joy of my life is being part of my students' youth and watching you grow and develop not only in dance but in character. I am so blessed to have been a part of your life for so many years. Can't wait to see where life takes you next! Keep in touch & visit every day!

XOXOXO, Miss Kimberly



# The Nutcracker: a pandemic tale In a nutshell...

#### Act 1

It's Christmas at the Stahlbaum family home. The Stahlbaums are famous for their annual Christmas Eve party, but sadly, this year turns out to be much different. Clara has fallen ill of the Russian flu that has begun to sweep the nation and holiday plans have been cancelled. Fritz, Clara's little brother, the Maid, and Mrs. Stahlbaum do their best to entertain Clara at a safe distance. Clara drifts in and out of sleep and dreams of last year's festivities and dancing. She also receives letters from her dearest friends, which makes her reminisce about her time with them and the fun they had at last year's Christmas party. Although this year is grim, Clara and Fritz still receive a surprise visit from Clara's Godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer. To help Clara feel better, he entertains her with his famous magic tricks and brings her dolls to life, making them dance for her. Herr Drosselmeyer then bestows gifts to Fritz and a very special gift for Clara: a Nutcracker. She adores her Nutcracker, but in a jealous scheme, Fritz snatches it away and breaks it. Clara is so upset and weak from her sickness that she faints, but Herr Drosselmeyer magically repairs the Nutcracker. As it grows late, Clara must go off to bed to rest. As Herr Drosselmeyer leaves he mysteriously stops by the Christmas tree and Clara's beloved Nutcracker.



Later that night, Clara awakens to find her Nutcracker. Suddenly, she is surrounded by mischievous, life-sized mice. Herr Drosselmeyer enters and rescues Clara. He then casts his magic, causing the Christmas tree and everything around it to grow, even Clara's Nutcracker! The Nutcracker then leads Fritz's toy soldiers to battle against the mischievous mice and the evil Rat King. There's a huge battle and the Nutcracker and the Rat King fight to the bitter end. In an act of bravery, Clara tries to sacrifice herself but the Nutcracker pushes her out of the way. Alas, the Rat King is too quick... the unthinkable happens... the Rat King strikes a blow to the Nutcracker. The Nutcracker staggers and falls to the ground. Clara, devastated, runs to her Godfather and begs him to fix her Nutcracker once again. Herr Drosselmeyer runs to the Nutcracker's side and once again, with the whip of his cape the Nutcracker transforms into a young Prince! Happy for their reunion, Herr Drosselmeyer takes them on a journey and they travel through the Kingdom of Snow, where they are welcomed by the lovely Snow Queen, her Princesses, and the Snowflake Court.

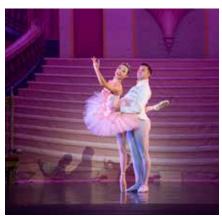
#### Act 2

As the trio leaves the Kingdom of Snow, they are greeted by an Angel, who leads them into the Land of Sweets to meet the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Court of Sweets. Herr Drosselmeyer tells of Clara's bravery, the devastating battle and the Nutcracker's transformation. The Court is relieved and the Sugar Plum Fairy calls for a celebration of their health. Clara is delighted as she is entertained by the members of the court, all representing some delicious confection: Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, Peppermint, Marzipan, and Gingerbread. Clara dances through the Waltz of the Flowers and then is asked to dance with the Sugar Plum Fairy. The celebration culminates with a beautiful pas de deux (dance of two) with the Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara.

As the celebration comes to an end, Herr Drosselmeyer puts Clara to sleep. The Land of Sweets slowly fades away as Herr Drosselmeyer returns Clara to her home. Clara awakens in her bed and sees her godfather leaving. She runs to thank him for his help and realizes she feels much better. She finds her Nutcracker in her bed and wonders: was her journey all a dream? Or was it real?







The Nutcracker: A Pandemic Tale 2020 • 7

### The Nutcracker Artistic Team



Sasha Robertson (Artistic Director): Sasha has been a part of the Ballet Etudes' artistic staff for 14 years. She began her ballet training with Marnell Himes-Ushijima as well as Gary and Muriel Joyce at Huntington Academy of Dance at age 5, studying and examining in the Cecchetti method. She continued her training with advanced commercial dance in high school and college but began to focus her attention on teaching. After more than 16 years, Sasha remains on HAD's faculty and has obtained her Associate teacher certification through Cecchetti USA. As an alumna of Ballet Etudes, Sasha has performed in the company's Nutcracker countless times, dancing roles from Mouse to Snow Princess to Spanish lead, just to name a few. She has also danced lead roles in other Ballet Etudes productions, such as Cinderella, the Little Mermaid, and Snow White

and the Magnificent 7. Sasha has directed and/or helped produce many Ballet Etudes productions, including The Nutcracker (2012-2019), Swan Lake (2016), Jungle Book (2017), Sleeping Beauty (2017), Aladdin (2018), Don Quixote (2018), Beauty and the Beast (2019) and Alice in Wonderland (2019). Sasha graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California with bachelor degrees in theatre and environmental social sciences. While at USC, she performed in several School of Theatre productions and was also fortunate to be selected to choreograph a full dance accompaniment to the Greek tragedy, "Agamemnon." Sasha holds her J.D. from USC Gould School of Law and works as a project development and finance attorney at Troutman Sanders LLP. She is grateful to be able to balance her legal career by sharing her love of dance with the upcoming generation of Ballet Etudes' ballerinas.



Madison Simons (Co-Assistant Director): Madison Simons was born and raised in Huntington Beach, Calif. She grew up dancing at Huntington Academy of Dance under the direction of Marnell Himes-Ushijima. She was a company member with Ballet Etudes Youth Ballet Company for five years, in which she performed roles such as Alice in Alice in Wonderland, Wendy in Peter Pan, and Snow Queen and Sugar Plum in The Nutcracker. Madison is classically trained in the Cecchetti Method of ballet, and has passed her Cecchetti Final Diploma exam. Madison also holds her bachelor's degree in dance science from Cal State Long Beach and is a certified Pilates instructor. She now teaches dance where it all began for her, at Huntington Academy of Dance, and assists with Ballet Etudes productions. She is blown away by the tenacity the dancers

have shown through such a hard year and she is so proud and honored to work with amazing human beings!



Bridgette Burnett (Co-Assistant Director): Born and raised in Huntington Beach, Calif., Bridgette received her early training at Huntington Academy of Dance under the direction of Marnell Himes and was a part of Ballet Etudes for eight years. She continued her training at Southland Ballet Academy. She competed in and won the Orange County Star's of Tomorrow competition at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in 2005 and 2006 and was a semi-finalist in 2005 and 2006 for the Spotlight competition held every year at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. She went on to spend five years with Festival Ballet Theater, directed by Salwa Rizkalla, where she performed a wide range of soloist and principal roles in productions of Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, and Swan Lake and worked with choreographers such as Jodi Gates,

Shawn Stevenson, David Allen, Molly Lynch, and Edwaard Liang. Bridgette received the Carolyn Cunningham scholarship at Cal State University Long Beach, where she received her B.A. in dance and performed works by Sophie Monat and Lorin Johnson. In 2009, she joined Monat Dance under the direction of Sophie Monat and performed principal roles at various galas such as the McCallum Theater's Dance under the Stars Choreography Festival and Celebrate Dance in Los Angeles. She participated in the National Choreographer's Initiative in 2012, directed by Molly Lynch where she performed works by Thang Dao and Darrell Grand Moultrie. She then went on to join Smuin Ballet in San Francisco and performed works by Adam Hougland, Michael Smuin and Amy Seiwart. She took some time off to have her two beautiful babies and is now back teaching at Huntington Academy of Dance, where she first fell in love with this art form and ultimately found her passion for dance. She is thrilled to be working with the next generation of HAD ballerinas and instilling her knowledge and love of dance into each and every one of them!



Megan Pulfer (Film Producer and Director of Photography): Megan Pulfer received her classical ballet training at Huntington Academy of Dance. At 16, she was accepted to North Carolina School of the Arts to study ballet. Megan first danced professionally with Cedar Lake 2, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, and Quixotic. In 2010, Megan went to Israel to dance with Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's Dance Journey for a year. She later signed a two-year contract with Kamea Dance Company. After moving back to California, she danced with Clairobscur Dance Company in Los Angeles. Megan served as the Co-Artistic Director of Ballet Etudes from 2014-2019. She is the Artistic Director and choreographer of Emergent Dance Company. Megan is currently pursuing her second career in Interior Design where she works on high-end residential homes at

Harte Brownlee & Associates.



Kimberly McEachern (Managing Director): Kimberly is the owner and Artistic Director of Huntington Academy of Dance, Managing Director of Ballet Etudes, and the Director of "DANCE HB!" for Huntington Beach Parks & Recreation. Kimberly, who received her training from Brenda Joyce, Marnell Himes-Ushijima, Gary Joyce and Rebecca Wright of ABT, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCLA in 2000 and holds her Licentiate certification with Cecchetti USA. In 2011, she was awarded the prestigious Enrico Cecchetti Final Diploma. Kimberly has been training dancers for over 25 years, and her students have gone on to professional dance careers, received dance merit scholarships at universities, and won numerous national and international dance competitions. Kimberly enjoys teaching and coaching students and is committed to promoting classical

ballet in Orange County. As a mother of three young boys, she enjoys working with and is honored to mentor the young ladies at the dance studio.



Marnell Himes-Ushijima (Director Emeritus, Huntington Academy of Dance & Founder, Ballet Etudes): Ms. Marnell is a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance, Cecchetti Branch, where she holds the Final Diploma. Ms. Marnell has served as Executive Director of Cecchetti USA and USA delegate to Cecchetti International. She began her training with Sheila Darby and continued at the National Ballet School in Toronto, Canada, and has extensive professional performing experience. Ms. Marnell has traveled throughout the United States and internationally teaching master classes and examining for Cecchetti USA. She was honored by the Allied Arts Board of the City of Huntington Beach as Arts Educator of the Year and received the Integrity in Business Award from the Rotary Club of Huntington Beach. Her former

students have danced professionally with companies such as NYC, Miami City, San Jose, Joffery, Ballet Pacifica, and LA Ballet, and in musical theatre, and have become dance teachers, choreographers, and artists. She is also very proud of her students who have gone on to many other professions, such as doctors, teachers, therapists, etc. She is also pleased to see the children of former students at HAD.



Melody Plastow (Rehearsal Assistant): Melody began her training in Sacramento at First Covenant Dance Studio, performing with the company and teaching there for 2 ½ years. She attended CSU Long Beach where she was able to train with Lisa Johnson, Andy Vaca, and Jenny Lee Stevens. She graduated in 2010 with her bachelor's in history, and then moved to Mississippi where she trained with Ballet Magnificat! In Mississippi she had the privilege to be taught by founder of the company Kathy Thibodeaux and Jiri Sebastian Voborsky. Melody graduated from the trainee program in 2012 and moved back to California. Upon moving back, she found Huntington Academy of Dance and is so thankful she did! She began teaching for HAD and Ballet Etudes in 2013 and though she is lucky to teach at multiple studios in the

area, considers HAD her home. Melody is thankful to have danced for 4 years with Emergent, is a registered yoga teacher and recently passed the Cecchetti Associates teaching exam. She started graduate school this summer for Dance/Movement Therapy and is excited for this new chapter!



**Kennedi Simons (Rehearsal Assistant):** Kennedi has trained at Huntington Academy of Dance since the age of 3, has passed her Grade 10 Cecchetti ballet exam, and her TC-1A Cecchetti Teaching Exam. In 2014 she competed in the Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition in Richmond, Va. She was a company member with Ballet Etudes Youth Ballet Company for six years and this is now her seventh year as a rehearsal assistant. When she's not teaching, she can be found studying! Kennedi attends California State University, Long Beach where she is studying to become a speechlanguage pathologist. She looks forward to seeing her students perform in this year's extra special production of The Nutcracker: A Pandemic Tale.



Jessica Austin (Rehearsal Assistant): Jessica joined Ballet Etudes as a rehearsal assistant this year. She has danced at Huntington Academy of Dance since the age of 6. She participated in the Cecchetti exam program up to Grade 6, and hopes to complete her Cecchetti Teaching Certificate 1A in the future. She was a member of Ballet Etudes Company throughout her teen years. Jessica now teaches ballet and musical theater at the studio, and loves the opportunity to watch her students perform and help them grow.



# Guest Principal Artist

#### Edward Johnson ~ Herr Drosselmeyer

Edward Johnson is a BFA graduate with honors from the University of California at Irvine, having earned degrees in dance, vocal music, and drama. He also holds a master's degree in education, and is in pursuit of his doctorate. He is the head of the University High School Dance Department in Irvine. Mr. Johnson maintains an active teaching schedule in the Southern California area, including lecture demonstrations and presentations at festivals and dance conferences. He is a sought-after partnering coach and offers workshops in both classical pas de deux and contemporary partnering.

Mr. Johnson received the majority of his preliminary dance training under the tutelage of the UCI Dance faculty including Janice Plastino, James Penrod, Israel "El" Gabriel, Bernard Johnson, David Allan and Donald Mckayle, among other notable instructors. He has pursued a variety of dance disciplines, including

swing, modern, Balinese dance, lindy hop, ballet, African, Afro-Haitian/Dunham-based technique and tap.

As a professional artist, Mr. Johnson was a soloist and principal dancer with the Anaheim Ballet Company under the artistic direction of Larry and Sarma Rosenberg, beginning in 1998. He continues to work in many dance, music and theatrical venues, both nationally and internationally.



#### Guest Artist

#### Ian Roman ~ The Nutcracker & The Prince

Ian attended San Francisco Ballet School's Summer Session for the 2018 and 2019 summer as well as the Royal Ballet School Summer Intensive in London for the summer of 2019, with the goal of becoming a more well-rounded dancer. He currently attends Orange County School of the Arts for Classical and Contemporary Dance.





### Ballet F.tudes Patrons

Our Nutcracker production would not have been possible without the generosity of our beloved patrons. Thank you wholeheartedly to everyone who contributed financially to help us "Keep Dancing" during the pandemic. We are eternally grateful!

### **Platinum** (*gift of \$1,000+*)

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# The Nutcracker: a Pandemic Tale

Film Producer and Director of Photography: Megan Pulfer

Artistic Director: Sasha Robertson

Assistant Directors: Bridgette Burnett and Madison Simons

Original Choreography by: Marnell Himes-Ushijima, Gary Joyce, Muriel Joyce, Judith Hawkesworth, Marie de la Palme

Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

#### Additional Choreography and Restaging by:

Sasha Robertson, Bridgette Burnett, Madison Simons, Megan Pulfer, Jessica Austin, Melody Plastow, Kennedi Simons

### Act 1

Christmas Eve

Clara: Isabella Graves

Maid/Sugar Plum Fairy: Lyla Davey

Fritz/Jester: Mia Yang

Mrs. Stahlbaum/Snow Queen: Jeslyn Russell

Children's March

Party Girls: Addison Kovaleski, Jada Kuns, Lauren Wendl

Party Boys: Abrielle Berghammer, Jackie Gayler, Mackenzie Jasper

Letters to Clara

Party Teens: Alison Conlay, Rachel Jaskowiak, Isabella Long

Drosselmeyer Arrives

Herr Drosselmeyer: Edward Johnson, Guest Principal Artist

Harlequin Doll: Madison Ishii Columbine Doll: Sophia Cardenas Soldier Doll: Sierra Woolums

Starting Magic

Rat Squires: Alison Conlay, Dilan Le

Mice: Lily Fraser, Helene Grenier, Grace Halligan, Mila Tran

The Nutcracker Soldier: Ian Roman, Guest Artist

The Battle

Rat King: Elise Conlay

Nutcracker's Lieutenant: Haylee Vujicic

Soldiers: Natalie Brill, Noelani Daro, Audrey Schneider, Emalynn Wood

Kingdom of Snow

Snow Queen: Jeslyn Russell

**Snow Princesses:** Kristin Hagen, Lily Kurimoto, Grace Ng, Sierra Woolums **Snow Court:** Elise Conlay, Grace Hager, Dilan Le, Julie Kurimoto, Grace Wendl

# The Nutcracker: a Pandemic Tale

#### Act 2

# The Land of Sweets

Young Herr Drosselmeyer: Edward Johnson, Guest Principal Artist

Angel: Sophia Rodriguez
Sugar Plum Fairy: Lyla Davey

The Nutcracker Prince: Ian Roman, Guest Artist

Court Jester: Mia Yang

Chocolate

Spanish Princess: Jeslyn Russell

Spanish Senoritas: Grace Hager, Grace Wendl

Coffee

Arabian Princess: Kristin Hagen

Arabian Handmaidens: Sarah Beyer, Makayla Ishii, Autrina Kasravi, Carmela Miars, Elizabeth Montgomery, Sami Summers,

Harper Turpin

Tea

Chinese Lead: Ella Glenn

Chinese Chorus: Kaitlin Black, Monica Camacho, Stella Grundstrom, Ella Henderson, Sydney Hunter, Madison Okura,

Elizabeth Volonte, Avery Ward

Peppermint

Candy Cane Lead: Haylee Vujicic

Candy Cane Chorus: Mia Dreger, Lylee Hunter, Caitlyn Nguyen, Kaylee Smith, Kiana Smith

Marzipan

Lead Mirliton: Sierra Woolums

Mirlitons: Lynnea Conlay, Laci Ganier, Ella Glenn, Sophia Rodriguez

Black Lamb: Logan Ostaszewski

Lambs: Mikayla Kaplan, Nyla Lin, Ellie Pobiega, Gwendolyn Woods

Gingerbread

Mother Ginger: Mike Conlay Baker: Makayla Arakaki

Ponchinellas: Kylie Gadberry, Rose Halligan, Natalie Luna, Brie Polito, Xiomara ("Cici") Strub, Shayne Swan

Waltz of the Flowers

**Dew Drop Fairy:** Grace Ng

Roses: Sophia Cardenas, Madison Ishii, Lily Kurimoto

Fuchsia Flowers: Makayla Arakaki, Lynnea Conlay, Laci Ganier, Ella Glenn, Julie Kurimoto, Sophia Rodriguez

Pink Flowers: Bella Bragassa, Roxy Brookhyser, Madeline Gerber, Nicolette Kasravi, Miia Tan

Pas de Deux

Clara: Isabella Graves

Sugar Plum Fairy: Lyla Davey

Apotheosis (Finale)

Dancers from the Second Act



Lyla,

Look how far we've come, how much we've changed! Seven Nutcrackers since we were all goofy little ponchies, and now here you are, the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy. We are so proud of you, and we know that although this year has been full of unknowns, changes, and some disappointments, we know that you are going to be amazeballs and we hope that you enjoy every moment of your fantastic achievement! Break a leg!





Love, Sophia, Hadley, Lily, Lucy, Lynnea, Maddie, Kristin



#### Nutty Understudies To our fantastic understudies: Your hard work and dedication to our Nutcracker production is most appreciated. Great work, dancers! ~Your Artistic Directors Sugar Plum Fairy/Maid Kristin Hagen Snow Queen/Mrs. Stahlbaum Grace Ng **Dewdrop Fairy** Jeslyn Russell Sophia Cardenas Clara Sierra Woolums **Arabian Princess** Spanish Princess Lily Kurimoto Mirliton Lead Madison Ishii Columbine Doll Sophia Rodriguez Harlequin Doll Makayla Arakaki Soldier Doll Laci Ganier Chinese Lead Lynnea Conlay Candy Cane Lead Dilan Le Baker Julie Kurimoto Angel Grace Wendl Spanish Senioritas Elise Conlay Nutcracker Grace Hager Rat King Harper Turpin **Rat Squires** Alison Conlay Lieutenant Sarah Beyer **Party Teens** Carmela Miars Arabian Handmaidens Roxy Brookhyser Fritz Mackenzie Jasper

# To our graduating senior

Jeslyn, we are so proud of the young woman you have become, the impact you've had on our Company, and the role model you are to our younger dancers. We have watched you develop throughout the numerous years of Nutcracker shows, and know this year's shows are bittersweet in that you are dancing at the top of your game but ending a chapter with Ballet Etudes.

Enjoy your time on stage this year, and on behalf of your fellow Company dancers and teachers, we love you and will cherish these moments in the Lands of Snow and Sweets with you.

-Miss Sasha, Miss Madison & Miss Bridgette

# Presenting the 2020-2021 Ballet Etudes Company Members



Left to right: Front row: Grace Wendl, Makayla Arakaki, Haylee Vujicic, Dilan Le Kneeling: Sophia Cardenas, Isabella Graves Back row: Kristin Hagen, Sierra Woolums, Madison Ishii, Lily Kurimoto, Grace Hager, Eden Mapel, Ella Glenn, Elise Conlay, Sophia Rodriguez, Lynnea Conlay, Julie Kurimoto, Laci Ganier, Jeslyn Russell, Grace Ng, Lyla Davey



Senior Company Member

Jeslyn Russell

17 years old

Senior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#uptosnowgood



Senior Company Member

Sophia Cardenas

16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#dollwithnotjustaprettyface



Lyla Davey
16 years old
Junior @ Cabrillo Point Academy
My hashtag is:
#maidofsugar



Senior Company Member

Kristin Hagen

16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#icecoffee



Senior Company Member

Madison Ishii

16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#alldolledup



Senior Company Member

Grace Ng
16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High
My hashtag is:

#justdewit



Senior Company Member

Isabella Graves
15 years old
Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High
My hashtag is:
#nuttythemovie



Senior Company Member
Sierra Woolums
15 years old
Freshman @ OCSA
My hashtag is:
#rosinandprayers



Junior Company Member

Lify Kurimoto

16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#iROSEaboveit



Junior Company Member

Lynnea Conlay

16 years old

Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#fuchsiafun



Junior Company Member

Laci Ganier
15 years old
Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High
My hashtag is:
#emergencylanding



Junior Company Member

Ella Glenn

15 years old

Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#cozypantseveryday



Junior Company Member

Sophia Rodriguez

15 years old

Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#missangel



Junior Company Member

Makayla Arakaki

14 years old

Freshman @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#bakeitaway



Apprentice Company Member

Dilan Le

16 years old

Junior @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#mousytalented



Apprentice Company Member

Elise Conlay

16 years old

Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#snowrat



Apprentice Company Member

Grace Hager
15 years old
Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High
My hashtag is:
#lettheflurrybegin



Apprentice Company Member

\*Eden Mapel\*

15 years old

Sophomore in high school



Apprentice Company Member

Haylee Vujicic
15 years old
Sophomore @ Huntington Beach High
My hashtag is:
#covidcandycane



Apprentice Company Member

Julie Kurimoto

14 years old

Freshman @ Huntington Beach High

My hashtag is:

#iceicebaby



Apprentice Company Member

Grace Wendl

15 years old

Freshman @ Mater Dei High

My hashtag is:

#icyandspicy



# The Nutcracker: a Pandemic Tale Cast

Cast photos donated by Photographic Renditions



**Sugar Plum Fairy** Lyla Davey



**Snow Queen** Jeslyn Russell



**Dew Drop Fairy** Grace Ng



**Clara** Isabella Graves



**Arabian Princess**Kristin Hagen



The Nutcracker & Prince
Ian Roman



Mrs. Stahlbaum Jeslyn Russell



**The Maid** Lyla Davey



Fritz & Jester Mia Yang



Party Teen Isabella Long



**Party Teen** Rachel Jaskowiak



**Party Teen** Allison Conlay



**Party Girl** Jada Kuns



**Party Girl** Addison Kovaleski



Party Girl Lauren Wendl



**Party Boy** Abrielle Berghammer



**Party Boy** Jackie Gayler



**Party Boy** Mackenzie Jasper



**Soldier Doll** Sierra Woolums



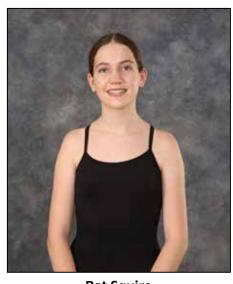
**Columbine Doll**Sophia Cardenas



Harlequin Doll Madison Ishii



**Rat King** Elise Conlay



Rat Squire Allison Conlay



Rat Squire Dilan Le



Rat Squire Eden Mapel (did not appear)



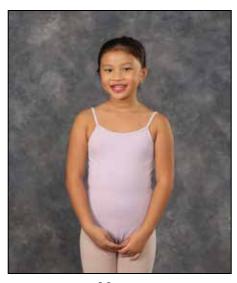
**Mouse** Lily Fraser



**Mouse** Helene Grenier



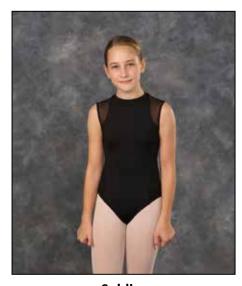
**Mouse** Grace Halligan



**Mouse** Mila Tran



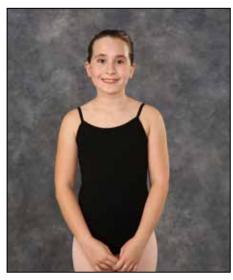
Nutcracker's Lieutenant Haylee Vujicic



**Soldier** Natalie Brill



**Soldier** Noelani Daro



**Soldier** Audrey Schnieder



**Soldier** Emmalyn Wood



**Angel** Sophia Rodriguez



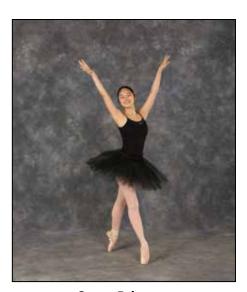
Snow Princess Grace Ng



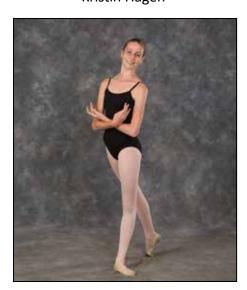
**Snow Princess** Kristin Hagen



**Snow Princess**Sierra Woolums



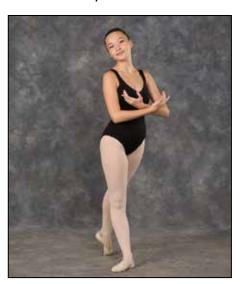
**Snow Princess** Lily Kurimoto



**Snow Court** Elise Conlay



**Snow Court** Grace Hager



**Snow Court**Dilan Le



**Snow Court**Eden Mapel (did not appear)



**Snow Court** Grace Wendl



**Snow Court**Julie Kurimoto



**Spanish Princess**Jeslyn Russell



**Spanish Senorita**Grace Hager



Spanish Senorita Grace Wendl



Arabian Handmaiden Sarah Beyer



**Arabian Handmaiden** Makayla Ishii



**Arabian Handmaiden** Autrina Kasravi



**Arabian Handmaiden**Carmela Miars



**Arabian Handmaiden** Elizabeth Montgomery



**Arabian Handmaiden**Samantha Summers



Arabian Handmaiden Harper Turpin



**Chinese Lead** Ella Glenn



**Chinese Chorus** Kaitlin Black



**Chinese Chorus**Monica Camacho



**Chinese Chorus**Stella Grundstrom



**Chinese Chorus** Ella Henderson



**Chinese Chorus**Sydney Hunter



**Chinese Chorus** Madison Okura



**Chinese Chorus** Elizabeth Volonte



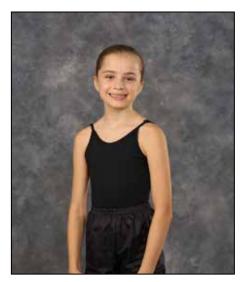
Chinese Chorus Avery Ward



Candy Cane Lead Haylee Vujicic



**Candy Cane** Mia Dreger



**Candy Cane** Lylee Hunter



**Candy Cane** Caitlyn Nguyen



**Candy Cane** Kaylee Smith



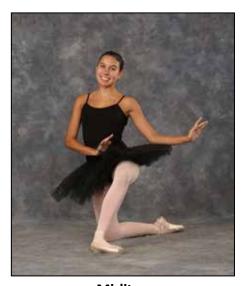
**Candy Cane** Kiana Smith



**Lead Mirliton**Sierra Woolums



**Mirliton** Lynnea Conlay



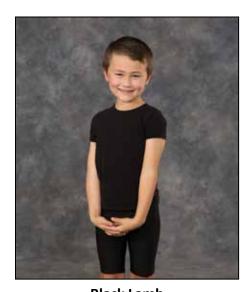
**Mirliton** Laci Ganier



**Mirliton** Ella Glenn



**Mirliton** Sophia Rodriguez



**Black Lamb** Logan Ostaszewski



**Lamb** Mikayla Kaplan



**Lamb** Nyla Lin



**Lamb** Ellie Pobiega



**Lamb** Gwendolyn Woods



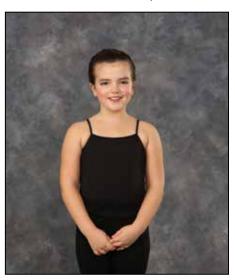
Mother Ginger Mike Conlay



**Baker** Makayla Arakaki



**Ponchinella** Kylie Gadberry



**Ponchinella** Rose Halligan



**Ponchinella** Natalie Luna



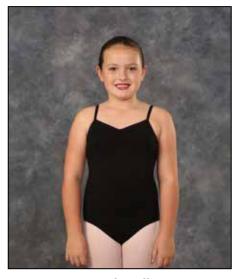
**Ponchinella**Brie Polito



**Ponchinella** Xiomara ("Cici") Strub



**Ponchinella** Shayne Swan



**Ponchinella**Natalie Zylstra (did not appear)



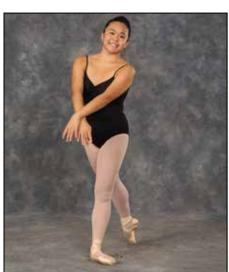
**Rose** Sophia Cardenas



**Rose** Madison Ishii



**Rose** Lily Kurimoto



**Fuchsia Flower** Makayla Arakaki



Fuchsia Flower Lynnea Conlay



Fuchsia Flower Laci Ganier



Fuchsia Flower Ella Glenn



Fuchsia Flower
Julie Kurimoto



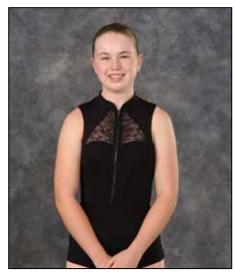
**Fuchsia Flower** Sophia Rodriguez



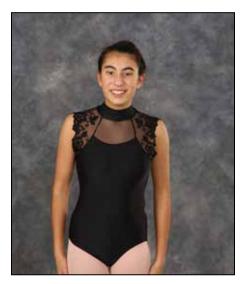
**Pink Flower** Bella Bragassa



**Pink Flower** Roxy Brookhyser



**Pink Flower** Madeline Gerber



**Pink Flower** Nicolette Kasravi



**Pink Flower** Miia Tan



"Dancers are the athletes of God"
-Albert Einstein







Clara 2020



Your passion continues to amaze and inspire us.

Love, Mom, Dad, Alyssa, and Charlie





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# ...and just like that you grew up

# to be YOU 🔻

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# SOPHIA CARDENAS

you and your smile rock!!! and we love you!

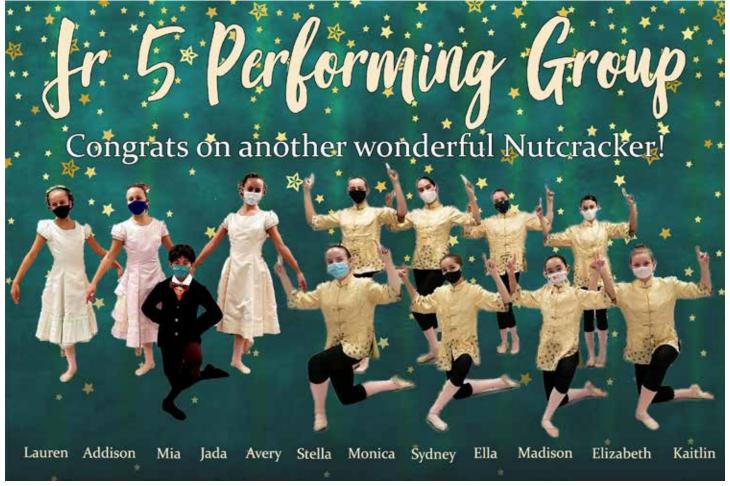
Mami, Papi, Nana, Tata

A special Thank You to the Costa Mesa team at

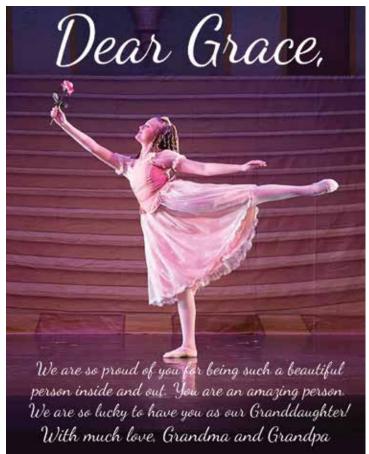
SAINT LAURENT For you contributions and support for the Arts







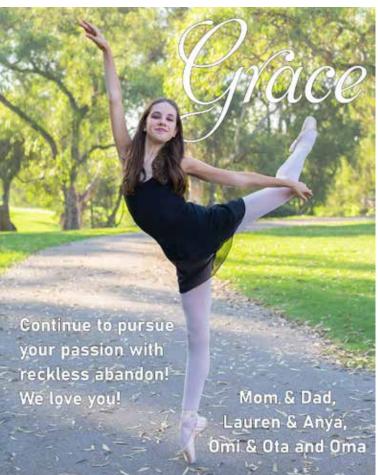


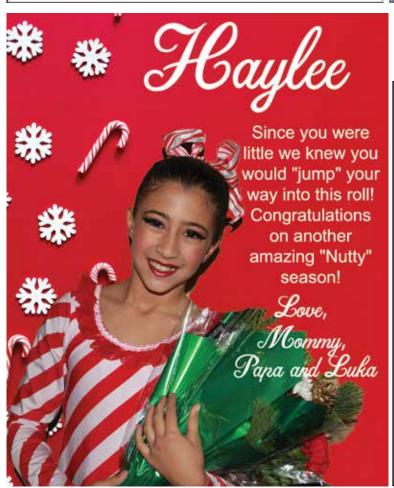


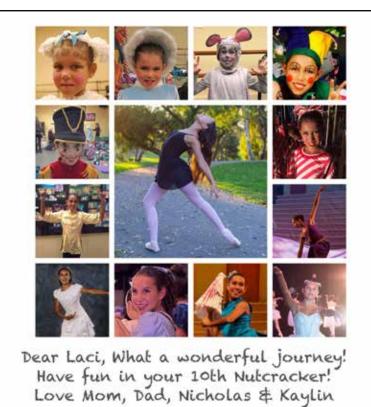




My favorite performers,
I'll never tire of seeing you shine onstage!
Love, Your biggest fan









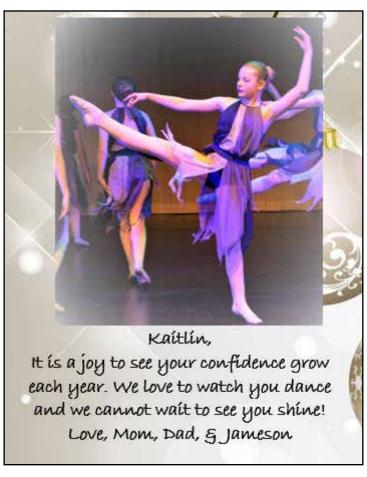
Dear Ella.

We are so excited to see you dance as Chinese Lead, Mirliton and Fuchsia Flower! We wish we were seeing a live performance, but 2020 isn't cooperating with anyone. Keep aiming for the stars YOU want to reach.

> We love you! Mom & Dad











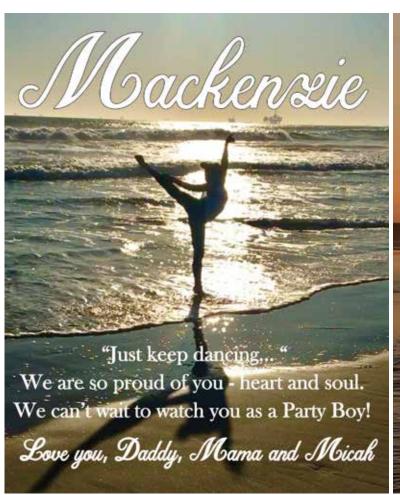


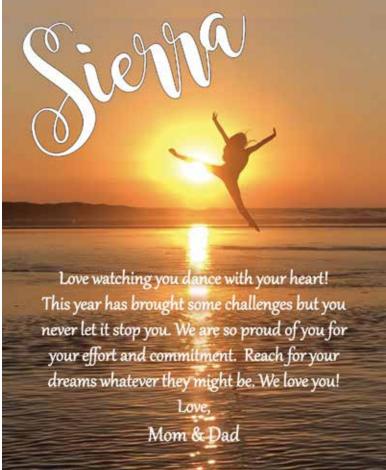


Wishing all the dancers, directors, stage crew and all who worked so diligently to put together the most unusual Nutcracker ever. Wishing ya'll a successful production and a wonderful 2021 from Frisco, Texas.

The Thornhill Family







# Cheryl Beasley

# Costumer

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Dear Kaitlin.

We love and support you in your love of ballet. We are so proud of your hard work year round.

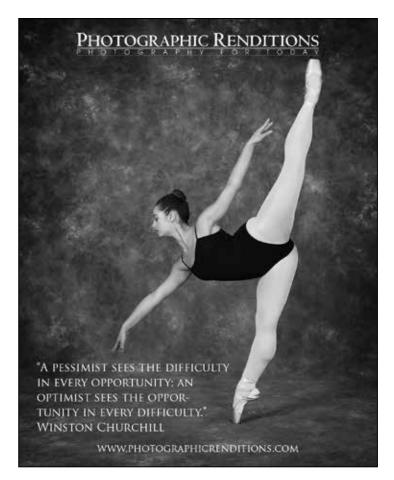
Love and hugs,

Grammy T & Grammy Bonnie

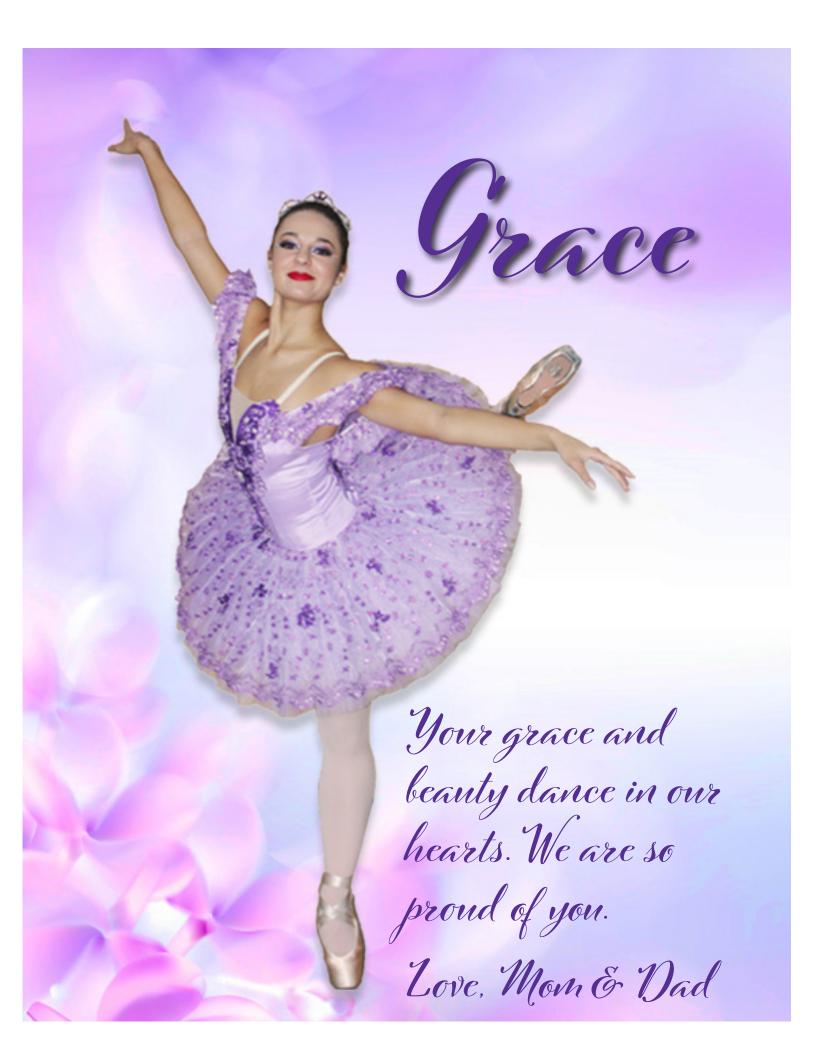
# Personal Lines

**Grace and Rose** — We love our marvelous Mouse and our precious Ponchinella! Congratulations from your proud parents!

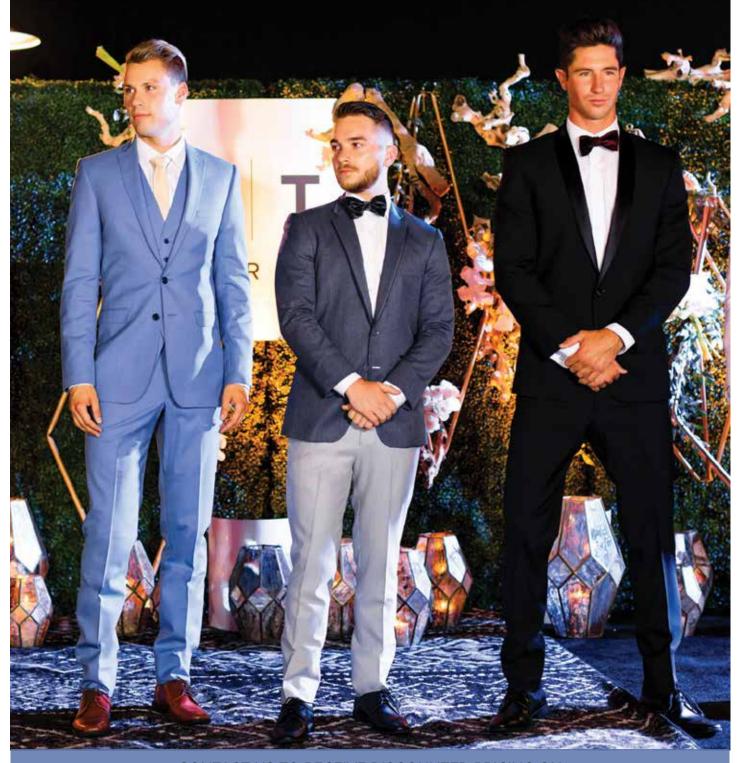
**Shayne**, your love and excitement for dance seems to grow weekly! Mommy and daddy couldn't be prouder of you. We love you, mommy & daddy



Autographs



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