

PENSACOLA YOUTH BALLET'S COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER



University of West Florida's Mainstage Theatre
Saturday December 6th

Welcome from the Director

It is with great pleasure I celebrate with you tonight the second year of Pensacola Youth Ballet's Community Nutcracker! What an occasion this is to bring together these different youth organizations to collaborate on one of the Christmas season's most anticipated events. With reimagined sets by Broadway designer David Tousley, new costumes by local long time costumer Jeannie Atwell, and featuring the talent of Perdido Performing Arts, Five Star Dance Center, LaBelle Performing Arts, and Pensacola Youth Ballet, tonight's performance is sure to entertain and delight.

Pensacola Youth Ballet is a 501c3 organization established to provide a premiere training ground for young dancers wishing to pursue a professional career in classical ballet. We have produced four full-length ballet performances including Pinocchio, Around The World In 80 Days, Pensacola Youth Ballet's Community Nutcracker, and "An Evening of Dance", which is a gala-style performance. We are proud to have raised over \$34,500 in support of The HOPE Foundation, Dixon School of the Arts, The Snoezelen Center, Favor House of North West Florida, Backpack Project USA, and The Secret Place Home. In addition we have provided over \$8,500 in summer study scholarships for our students to attend nationally recognized programs such as American Ballet Theatre, Orlando Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, among others.

Tonight, I am extremely excited to continue our newest scholarship endeavor "The Legacy Awards". This campaign seeks to bring awareness to Pensacola's own "Matriarchs of Ballet". These are the individuals who introduced ballet to our community so long ago, and who's contribution advanced the art form in our area. Each organization participating in tonight's performance will receive one of these Legacy Scholarships. Each scholarship will be named in honor of one of our Ballet Matriarchs and will include their story and the impact they had on our local community. Even more exciting, is the opportunity for you to participate in this effort. If you would like to help us have a greater impact with these scholarships, you can make a donation specifically towards the Legacy Awards, and earmark your contribution either for a specific school or student. There is a QRCode located in the lobby area of the theatre where you can make that contribution.

It is my sincere desire to offer our students more opportunities to experience and perform the art of classical ballet, and to demonstrate how they can use their talents to contribute and improve their community. In that spirit, I look forward to watching this program grow over the coming years, and hope many more groups will share in this opportunity.

Now in closing, I hope tonight brings you great joy and memories that last a lifetime. Please enjoy Pensacola Youth Ballet's Community Nutcracker.

Sincerely,

Michael Wardlaw Artistic Director

Guest Participants



Perdido Performing Arts and Productions has been sharing the love and art of dance for over 15 years. It all started as an afterschool dance program in the Escambia County elementary schools and then in 2021 Director Brandice Purvis opened the first PPAP studio location expanding the program. Now with a studio located near Pensacola NAS they offer theatre and dance classes for all ages and are home of the one and only Chicken Nugget Hip Hop Crew. Perdido Performing Arts is proud to be a part of the very first PYB Community Nutcracker and is excited to share the stage with so many talented dancers around the area.



Five Star Dance Centre opened in August 2016 and operates under the direction of Michelle Lewis Cameron. We offer the Pace community a unique establishment for dance education in an atmosphere that is welcoming to students of all ages and levels of ability. Our studio provides a family environment in which all students are granted the same opportunities to grow and learn. We believe that every student is gifted in their own way and we strive to bring out the best in each individual. Allowing students freedom to express themselves and hone their dancing skills with an emphasis on technique is our driving force. Our motto at Five Star Dance Centre is “molding dancers and building character.”



LaBelle Performing Arts (LPA) is dedicated to inspiring the love of the arts in students of varying abilities and ages, from preschool to pre-professional. LPA supports the growth of the arts by maintaining the highest standards and by nurturing the talent of every student. LPA teaching staff has been trained in the various styles and disciplines as well as the syllabus, which the school employs so that students benefit from cohesive and consistent training.

Guest Artist



Michael Burke

Michael Burke, originally from Mexico, Missouri, trained at the Mareck Center for Dance and Beijing Dance Academy. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music with a BFA in Ballet. Michael joined Saint Louis Ballet in 2016 under the direction of Gen Horiuchi where he is currently a company member. He has danced with Deos Contemporary Ballet since 2019 for their summer COLLIDE series, festival appearances, and dance for film projects. Michael has also performed with Indianapolis Ballet, Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance, Kentucky Ballet Theatre, and Birmingham Ballet. Highlights from his performance career include Albrecht in *Giselle*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, the principal pas de deux in Christopher Wheeldon's *Within the Golden Hour* and *The American*, the leading roles in George Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*, *Square Dance*, and *Valse Fantaisie*, Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*, John Keats in Tess Sinke's *My Dearest Girl*, and The Mad Hatter in Brian Enos's *Alice in Wonderland*. He has also originated roles in works by Amy Seiwert, Steve Rooks, Kevin Jenkins, Emery LeCrone, and Princess Grace Award winner Kameron N. Saunders. As an instructor, Michael has taught ballet, men's technique, pas de deux, pointe, variations, contemporary, and conditioning to students of all ages, including for the Professional Training Program at Saint Louis Ballet. He has had students place in the top 12 at the Youth America Grand Prix. Michael is an ABT® Certified Teacher and is also a certified in Progressing Ballet Technique.

Scenic Design



David Tousley (scenic designer)

Mr. Tousley is known for his creative and innovative work in the world of theater, film, and television. David has contributed to numerous productions, including the critically acclaimed TV series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." He has also worked as an assistant scenic designer on Broadway, notably on "MJ the Musical" the touring production of "Waitress" and the live stage production at Disneyland's California Adventure, "Frozen." David is a proud member of the Computer Artists category of the United Scenic Artists 829 union in New York City.

Costume Team



Jeannie Atwell , a beloved Pensacola native, is a graduate of Pensacola High School, and attended both Pensacola Junior Colledge and University of West Florida. Mrs. Atwell has been costuming Pensacola actors, dancers and entertainers for over 50 years. She was the Costumer Designer at Pensacola Little Theatre for 40+ years. Working within Pensacola's theatrical and dance communities has given her the opportunity to meet and work with many of Pensacola's most talented and creative people. We consider ourselves very blessed to have her working with us now!



Melainie Davidson, native of St Louis, Mo, and retired to the Sunshine State in 2008! I grew up with a creative, mom who could design and sew anything. She passed that DNA passion for fashion and creativity on to me. I heard about a sewing need at the Pensacola Youth Ballet, so I stepped in to help out. "Hmmm...baptism by fire, it's a great experience!"

Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to the many parent volunteers who helped with costuming, working backstage, show preparations, food, and all that you do for our talented students!! You are the backbone of this organization, and we couldn't do this without you. I'm so grateful to have such dedicated teams, and supportive parents to help make my visions a reality.



~~Naughty or Nice~~ List Cast

The Party Scene

Clara- Sara Cathey... *Nice*

Fritz- Daisy Johnson... *Naughty*

Party Moms- Emma Witte, Rosemary Day, Emily Crane, Abigail Thurmond, Blakely Olafsen.... *Mostly nice*

Party Dads- Andy Waltrip, Michael Dennis, Stephen Robinson, Chris Gulig, Will Cathey... *Most definately naughty*

Party Girls- Dorothy Cathey, Maira Fitz-Gerald, Sophia Witte, Talia Bullman... *All nice*

Party Boys – Tyla Thomas, Alexandria Dean, Abigail Crane, Gracie Skaggs... *Mostly naughty*

Doll- Karys Snyder... *Naughty*

Rat Doll- Quinten Purvis... *Definately naughty*

Drosselmayer- Ashley Brigham... *Rather naughty and mischievious*

Grandma- Emily Cherry... *Definitively naughty*

Grandpa- John Thurmond... *Always nice and a gentleman*

Maid- Addison Boyd... *Nice*

The Battle Scene

Little Mice- Mia Wardlaw, Matilda Thurmond, Claire Gulig, Freya Philphat, Amelia Picota, Emmalyn Riley... *Naughty*

Big Mice- Annelise Hanson, Gamila Winslow, Evelyn Prado, Gracelyn Weeks, Bebe Rossi, Tyla Thomas, Sable Bennett, Emma Gulig... *Naughty*

Soldiers- Gracie Skaggs, Tabby Pearl, Abigail Thurmond, Ruthie Smith, Abigail Crane, Dorothy Cathey, Callista Bennett, Veda Hays, Mikayla Renaud... *Nice*

Rat Queen- Addison Boyd... *Naughty*

Nutcracker- Michael Burke... *Nice*

The Snow Scene

Snow Flakes- Ariana Johnson, Gianna Thurmond, Rosemary Day, Blakely Olafsen, Mary McRae, Emma Witte, Ella Matheis, Emily Crane, Grace Tran, Marissa Lawrence, Karys Snyder, Tabby Pearl... *Mostly Nice*

ACT2

The Carousel in the land of the sweets

Carousel Animals-Tabby Pearl, Daisy Johnson, Alexandria Dean , Ruthie Smith, Maira Fitz-Gerald, Sophia Witte, Sophia Bullman... *Nice*

Spanish Lead - Ariana Johnson... *Nice*

Spanish Sides- Alexandria Dean, Abigail Crane, Callista Bennett, Addison Boyd... *Nice*

Arabian Lead - Blakely Olafsen... *Mostly Nice*

Arabian Sides - Grace Tran, Gia Thurman... *Nice*

Chinese Lead- Georgia Hunter... *Naughty*

Chinese Sides- Ella Mattheis, Tyla Thomas, Addison Boyd, Abigail Thurmond... *Nice*

Russian Lead- Quinten Purvis... *Depends on the day*

Russian Corps- Tabetha McKean, Rielee Carmadelle, Blossom Cauthen, Venus Cauthen, Charlee Socia, Callista Bennett, Aubrey Meeter, Gracie Skaggs, Ruthie Smith... *Very nice*

Mother Ginger- Andy Waltrip... *Naughty all the time*

Poodles - Gracelyn Weeks, Bebe Rossi, Daisy Johnson, Dorothy Cathey, Maira Fitz-Gerald, Talia Bullman, Sophia Witte, Sable Bennett... *Nice but can be tricky*

Shephardess- Emma Witte, Abigail Thurmond, Gia Thurmond... *Nice*

Sheep- Mia Wardlaw, Matilda Thurmond, Amelia Picota, Freya Philphot, Claire Gulig, Emmalyn Riley... *Nice*

Wolf- Sophia Bullman... *Extra naughty*

Flowers- Ariana Johnson, Karys Snyder, Mary McRae, Blakely Olafsen, Rosemary Day, Ella Matheis, Freedom Hinkson, Marissa Lawrence... *Nice*

Bird - Grace Tran... *Nice*

Sugar Plum- Tara Glazebrooke... *Sweet*

Cavalier- Michael Burke... *Heroic*

Our Sponsors

Pensacola Youth Ballet is honored to receive the generous support of local businesses and individuals! These faithful contributions demonstrate a commitment to support children's educational activities in our community.
We are so inspired by your support!

Angels



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