

# PENSACOLA YOUTH BALLET'S COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER



## *Welcome from the Director*

It is with great pleasure I celebrate with you tonight, the birth of Pensacola's first community wide Nutcracker! What a momentous occasion this is to bring together five separate youth organizations to collaborate on one of the Christmas seasons 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, Gulf Coast Elite Gymnastics, and Pensacola Youth Ballet...tonights 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 \$27,500 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 \$8,000 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 reveal 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 tonights 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. Please make checks payable to Pensacola Youth Ballet, and drop them in the red box in the lobby.

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 that 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.



Gulf Coast Elite Gymnastics is a premiere training program with three locations in Gulf Breeze. We specialize in Recreational Gymnastics, Competitive Girls and Boys Team Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Preschool Gymnastics and Ninja. We have a TOPS and Elite Development Program for those interested in the Elite path.

## *Guest Artists*



### **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 Fantasia*, 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.



### **Rick Vigo**

Rick Vigo began his ballet training with Linda Stark, Starr Burlingame, and Dorothy Lister in Pensacola. He has also studied at Emory University, FSU, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in NYC, and the Dance Complex in Boston. He has performed with HT Chen and Dancers, Anna Myer and Dancers, Tony Williams Dance Company, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, The Tallahassee Ballet, Walt Disney World, Celebrity Cruises, Bally's "Jubilee!" in Las Vegas, and many others. He has taught and choreographed for various studios in the Boston area as well as, more recently, The Tallahassee Ballet and Sharon Davis School of Dance. His work has been shown at The Dance Complex, Wellesley College, The Strand Theatre, and FSU. In 2022, after returning to FSU as a student, Rick received his BFA in Dance. Rick is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Exercise Science at the University of West Florida and hopes to begin a doctoral program in physical therapy next year. This is his first time performing with Pensacola Youth Ballet.



## *Scenic Design*



David Tousley (scenic designer) 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 College 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!



Annie Rose is a native to Pensacola and graduated from the University of West Florida with a BA in Theatre & Telecommunications. Growing up in Pensacola, she's been active in local theatre and productions since a kid. She's collaborated with Pensacola Little Theatre, Pensacola Junior College, Shining Light Players, and is ecstatic to be part of Pensacola Youth Ballet's Nutcracker production team!

Outside of theatre she works with entrepreneurs as the Officer Manager for CO:LAB a program of FloridaWest, on the leadership team for Pensacola Young Professionals as Special Events Chair, in the 2025 Class of Leadership Pensacola, and the recipient of 3 Local Gold Awards from the American Advertising Federation.



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!



### *Board of Directors*

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Michelle Wardlaw

Nikki Loveday

# *~~Naughty or Nice List~~*

## *Cast*

### *The Party Scene*

**Clara-** Grace Tran.....*Nice*

**Fritz-** Maddox Madril...*Nice*

**Party Girls-** Sophia Bokath, Tyla Thomas, Tabby Pearl, Georgia Hunter.....*All nice*

**Party Boys -** Abigail Thurmond, Zoe Romine, Abigail Crane, Isabella Thuma...*Mostly naughty*

**Party Moms-** Jillian McLaren, Isabelle Thurmond, Emilee Crane, Ellen Pierce, Mary McRae...*Mostly nice*

**Party Dads-** Davis Bare, Rick Vigo, Stephen Robinson, Michael Dennis, Christopher Mandel...*Most definitely naughty*

**Rat Doll-** Quinten Purvis...*Always Naughty*

**Doll-** Tara Glazebrook...*Nice*

**Drosselmeyer-** Ashley Brigham....*Rather naughty and mischievous*

**Grandma-** Holly Tolbert...*Definitively naughty*

**Grandpa-** Brendon Tolbert...*Always nice, and a gentleman*

**Maid-** Addison Boyd....*Nice*

### *The Battle Scene*

**Little Mice-** MiaSarah Wardlaw, Matilda Thurmond...*Naughty*

**Big Mice-** Annalise Hanson, Meredith Fendt, Gia Thurmond, Gracelyn Weeks, Violet Macho, Georgia Hunter, Sable Bennett...*Naughty*

**Rat Queen-** Addison Boyd...*Naughty*

**Soldiers-** Tyla Thomas, Tabby Pearl, Abigail Thurmond, Zoe Romine, Abigail Crane, Ella Mattheis, Calista Bennett, Sophia Bokath...*Nice*

**Nutcracker-** Michael Burke....*Extraordinarily Nice*

### *The Snow Scene*

#### **Snow Flakes**

Ellen Pierce, Emma Vislay, Tara Glazebrook, Isabelle Thurmond, Mary McRae, Emily Cherry, Scarlet Bennet, Angeline Castagna, Jillian McLaren, Marissa Lawrence, Karis Snyder, Tabby Pearl, Ariana Johnson....*All very nice until their naughty side comes out*

## ACT 2

### *The Carousel in the land of the sweets*

**Carousel Animals**-Tabby Pearl, Tyla Thomas, Abigail Thurmond, Zoe Romine, Abigail Crane, Ella Mattheis, Calista Bennett....*Nice*

**Spanish lead** – Scarlet Bennett...*Nice*

**Spanish Sides**- Isabella Thuma, Tara Glazebrook, Calista Bennett, Addison Boyd...*Nice*

**Russian lead**- Quinten Purvis...*Nice*

**Russian Corps**- Rilee Arrant, Riele Carmadelle, Blossom Cauthen, Venus Cauthen, Skylar Lillo, Aubrey Meeter, Aubree Randolph, Charlee Socia....*Nice*

**Chinese Lead**- Georgia Hunter ...*Nice*

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

**Arabian leads** -Emma Vislay, Rick Vigo...*Nice*

**Arabian sides** - Sophia Bokath, Karys Snyder....*Depends on the day*

**Mother Ginger**- Brendon Tolbert...*Most definitely naughty all the time*

**Poodles** - Gracelyn Weeks, Violet Macho, Annalise Hanson, Meredith Fendt, Gia Thurmond, Talia Bullman, Lauren Simmons, Sable Bennett, Saylor Ladnier, Genevieve Ogbe, Tyler Salaz, Betty Bond Rossi ...*Nice but can be tricky*

**Shephardess**- Karys Snyder...*Nice*

**Sheep**- MiaSarah Wardlaw, Matilda Thurmond...*Nice*

**Wolf**- Jillian McLaren...*Extraordinarily naughty*

**Flowers**- Ellen Pierce, Isabelle Thurmond, Mary McRae, Ariana Johnson, Scarlet Bennett, Angeline Castagna, Jillian McLaren, Marissa Lawrence...*Nice*

**Humming Bird** -Tara Glazebrook...*Nice and chirpy*

**Sugar Plum**- Emma Vislay...*Nice*

**Cavalier**- Michael Burke...*Nice*



## *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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**Thank you to all the volunteers, teachers, patient parents, each Director,  
and of course all of our wonderful performers. Great job everyone!!**