

## THE NUTCRACKER



GREENBERG THEATRE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 13TH & 14TH, 2025

## OVATIONS STUDIOS 9TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION

# THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Saturday, 12/13 & Sunday, 12/14 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 6:30 PM



### NUTCRACKER PRODUCTION STAFF

#### Melissa P. Carney, Artistic Director

Jessie Awad Kristen Bollinger Matthew Palfenier Amanda Smith Lori Williams

Lighting Design

Costume Design

Set Design

Greenberg Facilities Manager
Greenberg Technical Director
Stage Manager
Production Assistant

Chris Allen

Miguelina Jones, Michelle Norris &

Melissa P. Carney

Walter Bruehs, Debbie Bruehs,

John Starr & Marc Carney

Lisa Barr

John Stahrr

Amanda Smith

Sarah Gorman

#### **Backstage Staff**

Charlie Ballenger, Emme Carney, Marc Carney, Kaylee Chernoff, Hannah Cunningham, Allie Griffin, Ariana Hendrix, Mara Johnson, Sadie Kreindler, Piper Mach, Allyson Shulman, Paloma Zabala

#### **Ovations Studios Staff**

Founder

Artistic Director

Studio Manager

Studio Manager

Leslie Armitage

Melissa P. Carney

Sarah Gorman

Jessie Awad



### GRADUATING SENIORS

Darcy Armitage
Anna Barone
Campbell Goldston
Emma Kelly
Daniella Kulp

Angela Mastrostefano
Caroline McCann
Aliza Mendel
Jana Miller
Audrey Yedwab

### A Special Thank You To:

The Greenberg Crew, Front of House Staff and all of the Nutcracker families for a wonderful season!



### NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEO RECORDING IS PERMITTED DURING THIS PERFORMANCE.



Please silence your cell phones.

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Welcome!** The enchanting tale of "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by German author ETA Hoffmann and reimagined story "The Nutcracker" by French author Alexandre Dumas has instilled magic and wonder into the hearts and minds of people of all ages around the world.

The Nutcracker is a holiday tradition that my family honored when I was a little girl and continues to be a tradition within my family today. I was privileged to have been a student of the late William F. Christensen, affectionately known to his students as Mr. C. His production of The Nutcracker, performed by San Francisco Ballet in 1944, was the first in the United States. He unknowingly triggered something magical with his delightful rendition of the ballet. Audiences were so enchanted they requested the ballet to be performed year after year. This was the beginning of an annual holiday tradition that eventually spread worldwide and is a tradition that Ovations Studios has embraced wholeheartedly.

I wish to express an enormous thank you to all the incredible people who have worked so hard to continue this great tradition. To my Artistic Team, (Jessie Awad, Kristen Bollinger, Matthew Palfenier, Amanda Smith & Lori Williams) you are all an inspiration! Thank you for the time and creativity you have instilled into this production. To the team here at the Greenberg Theatre, (Greg Anderson, Lisa Barr & John Starr) you are amazing! Thank you for the artistry, advice, and assistance you provide even when we are working venues apart. To Sarah Gorman thank you for keeping the studio running smoothly and your stunning visual arts skills. You are my rock! To Chris Allen, thank you for illuminating our dancers in such beautiful lights.

Finally, to you our audience, may these amazing young dancers with their hearts on their sleeves and their passion for dance take you on a magical journey. I hope your experience today inspires you, piques your imagination, entertains your soul, and fills your heart.

Thank you to all of you for joining us. Please sit back, relax, and enjoy this performance of The Nutcracker.

Sincerely, Melissa P. Carney, Artistic Director



### 10:30 AM

Featuring Ellie Yang as Clara and Maris Fisher-Phillips as Fritz

2:30 PM

Featuring Ellie Yang as Clara and Maris Fisher-Phillips as Fritz

6:30 PM

Featuring Julia Wong as Clara and Emily Blumenfeld as Fritz

### ACT I THE PARTY SCENE

Frau Stahlbaum

m Emma Kelly

Herr Stahlbaum Grandma Stahlbaum Daniel Allison

Serena Perelman

Clara

10:30 & 2:30: Ellie Yang

6:30: Julia Wong

Fritz

10:30 & 2:30: Maris Fisher Phillips

6:30: Emily Blumenfeld

**Maids** 

Chloe McCarrick, Katherine Rosenthall

**Party Parents** 

Theodore Alexander, William Feldon, Landon B. Jenkins, Ayelet Magder,

Michael Collier Melendez, Jana Miller,

Claire Ryan, Ava Zabransky

**Party Girls** 

Holland Carter, Kayla Cohen, Ana Klatzkin,

Amelia Silver

**Party Boys** 

Maddie Friedman, Ellie Gelatt,

Libby Handorf, Camille Sternhell

Drosselmeyer Magician's Assistant Bryant Howard

Magdalena Harrison

Harlequin Doll
Columbine Doll

Audrey Yedwab

Sonia Bohley

Party Scene & Midnight Understudies

Frau Stahlbaum: Ava Zabransky

Maids: Sophia Schulman Song Bird: Ayelet Magder

### ACT I MIDNICHT & THE BATTLE SCENE

**Song Bird** 

**Christmas Tree Birds** 

Darcy Armitage

Rose Cohen, Madeline Golberg,

Grace Schreiber, Mallory Yedwab

**Nutcracker Prince** 

Michael Collier Melendez

**Soldiers** 

10:30 & 2:30: Cait Balserak, Addison Boyle,

Ella Feder, Sloane McCarrick,

Grace McColough

6:30: Serafina Meek, Sofia Ortiz,

Nora Podor, Rory Shartar,

Addison Wegner

**Mouse King** 

10:30 & 2:30: Maris Fisher Phillips

6:30: Emily Blumenfeld

**Baby Mouse** 

10:30 & 2:30: Lila Segal

6:30: Tobin Kirsch

Mice

10:30 & 2:30: Josephine (Josie) Ewart,

Ranya Hasan, Abigail Merriam, Lainey Schreiber, Eliza Schwirian

6:30: Vivian Bank, Ava Ghosh, Riley Goldman, Claire Tamny,

Vivienne White

## ACT I THE SNOW SCENE

Snow Queen Snow King Caroline McCann Landon B. Jenkins

Snow Flurries
Snow Crystals

Angela Mastrostefano, Meryl Rinn Sofiia Remizova, Katya Schooling, Sophia Schulman, Chetty Thomas Rose Cohen, Madeline Golberg, Grace Schreiber, Mallory Yedwab

**Snowflakes** 

**Snow Drops** 

10:30 & 2:30: Archer Ansley,
Lucy Balserak, Bella Cohen, Jane Conley,
Quinn Connolly, Maddie Fuge,
Olivia Gelatt, Maeve Kelly, Virginia Nolan,
Charlotte Roche, Brady Thompson,
Penelope Wincup
6:30: Jane Alexander, Catherine Betz,
Emery Bixler, Ismenia (Izzy) Doyle,
Sophie Foster, Elizabeth Gardner,
Roxie Goldman, Ella Lerman,
Ruby McLain, Angelica Meek,

Reindeer

10:30 & 2:30: Shekhinah Ahimbisibwe, Becca Fischman, Emelia Koch 6:30: Sylvia Jones, Lola Ortiz

Molly Podor, Charlotte Roberts

Snow Scene Understudies

Snow Flurry: Serena Perelman Snow Crystal: Sierra Godes

#### TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

## ACT II THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

British Sugar Plum Fairy British Sugar Plum Cavalier Emma Kelly Daniel Allison

Royal Herald Royal Attendants Royal Courtiers Vivian Porter Charlotte Balboa, Catherine Cahlink Sonia Bohley, Sierra Godes, Emma Milano, Katherine Rosenthall, Finnegan Tremblay, Audrey Yedwab

Clara

10:30 & 2:30: Ellie Yang 6:30: Julia Wong

**Nutcracker Prince** 

Michael Collier Melendez

Reindeer

10:30 & 2:30: Shekhinah Ahimbisibwe, Becca Fischman, Emelia Koch 6:30: Sylvia Jones, Lola Ortiz

**Spanish Chocolate** 

Jana Miller

Arabian Coffee Princess
Arabian Coffee Enchanter

Ayelet Magder
Theodore Alexander

**Arabian Coffee Dancers** 

Claire Allen, Holland Carter, Kayla Cohen, Maddie Friedman, Ellie Gelatt, Libby Handorf, Ana Klatzkin, Amelia Silver

Kingdom of Sweets Understudies

British Sugar Plum Fairy: Ava Zabransky Royal Herald: Emma Milano Royal Attendant: Sonia Bohley Chinese Tea Soloist: Charlotte Balboa Chinese Tea Dancers: Finnegan Tremblay Mademoiselle Gigogne: Taylor Coates

## ACT II THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

**Chinese Tea Soloist** 

Claire Ryan

Chinese Tea

Charlotte Balboa, Catherine Cahlink, Chloe McCarrick, Katherine Rosenthall

**Russian Trepak** 

Bryant Howard & Serena Perelman

Italian Marzipan Soloist Italian Marzipan Dancers

Ava Zabransky Sierra Godes, Sofiia Remizova, Katya Schooling, Sophia Schulman,

Mademoiselle Gigogne French Polichinelles

Grace Schreiber

Chetty Thomas

10:30 & 2:30: Shekhinah Ahimbisibwe.

Archer Ansley, Lucy Balserak, Bella Cohen, Becca Fischman,

Emelia Koch

6:30: Roxie Goldman, Sylvia Jones,

Ruby McLain, Lola Ortiz,

Charlotte Roberts

Rose

Meryl Rinn

Petals

Anna Barone, Campbell Goldston,

Sadie Harrison, Violet Higley,

Daniella Kulp, Caroline McCann,

Aliza Mendel, Vivian Porter

Leaves

Theodore Alexander, Landon B. Jenkins

## ACT I THE PARTY

It is a cozy Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum family home. The house is decorated with all the beauty of Christmas and in the center of it all, a majestic Christmas tree. As the Stahlbaums prepare for their annual Christmas party, their children, Fritz and Clara, wait in anticipation for family and friends to arrive.

Excitement fills the air whilst guests slowly make their way toward the Stahlbaum home. With their arrival, the party comes to life through dancing and celebration. Children carry on with laughter while their parents relax and enjoy the delightful evening. Suddenly, a mysterious guest arrives dressed in fanciful clothing. Clara and Fritz jump with joy and run to greet their uncle Drosselmeyer, the toymaker, and his assistant. Drosselmeyer's surprise arrival is warmly accepted. After a glad greeting, Drosselmeyer mesmerizes the children with magic tricks. As a treat for all present, the magician and his assistant bring to life two enchanted dolls that dance for the guests.

## ACT I (CONTINUED) THE NUTCRACKER

To the delight of all, Drosselmeyer reveals one more surprise, a special gift for his favorite niece. In a flourish of movement Drosselmeyer presents Clara with a beautifully crafted Nutcracker. Fritz becomes jealous. He snatches the Nutcracker from Clara, charging across the room with no regard for the delicate nature of the exquisite toy. Fritz's antics cause the Nutcracker to break, making Clara extremely upset. Using his magical touch, Drosselmeyer mends the Nutcracker with a handkerchief. Clara calls her friends to gather round and the children dance with their new toys.

The evening draws nigh, bringing with it the lure of warm beds and sweet dreams. Sleepy children in tow, the guests generously thank the Stahlbaums for a lovely evening before journeying out into the snowy night. Clara and Fritz are shuffled off to bed while Herr and Frau Stahlbaum take in a quiet moment remembering the heartwarming events of the evening.

## ACT I (CONTINUED) MIDNIGHT

Regally, the Nutcracker rests under the grand Christmas tree while the maids tidy up the house after the party. As stars glisten in the night sky, Clara quietly tiptoes to the tree checking on her favorite toy while secretly followed by a jealous Fritz. Exhausted by the events of the evening, Clara falls asleep near the Christmas tree with the Nutcracker safely by her side.

As midnight draws near, Clara awakens to a frightening scene. Mice are scurrying through the room playing tricks and dancing around the Christmas tree. Suddenly, the house and the tree begin to grow larger. Drosselmeyer's magic fills the space, bringing the entire room to life. The Christmas tree birds dance, the tree glistens, and the Nutcracker stands proud with his toy soldiers. It is as if Clara is caught in a magical spell that brings dreams to life.

## ACT I (CONTINUED) THE BATTLE

Out of nowhere, the mice reappear, led by the Great Mouse King. Clara's Nutcracker, who has magically grown to be life size, leads the toy soldiers into battle and fights the mouse army. The Mouse King traps the Nutcracker in a corner of the room overwhelming the Nutcracker with his strength and clever wit. Clara makes a desperate move to save her Nutcracker from defeat by striking the Mouse King with a slipper. This action only adds to the frustration of the Mouse King, who turns to attack Clara. With the Mouse King distracted, the Nutcracker seizes the opportunity lunging towards the Mouse King, striking him with his sword. The dying Mouse King falls to the living room floor, and the mouse army sadly carries away their defeated King. Clara runs to the opposite side of the room, overwhelmed by the events of the evening. In a miraculous moment, the Nutcracker is transformed into a human prince. Drosselmeyer presents the prince to Clara sending them on a magical journey.



The journey begins in the Winter Forest as the Nutcracker escorts Clara through a beautiful forest freshly doused with snow. The Snow King and Queen greet Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. The royal couple call their dancing Snow Flurries, Snow Crystals, Snow Drops and glistening Snowflakes to meet the delighted Clara. As a gift, the Snow Queen invites Clara to take a journey in her magical sleigh, pulled by reindeer to the Kingdom of the Sweets.



### ACT II

#### ARRIVAL IN THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

Immersed in a fairy-tale like dream, Clara and her Prince journey through the Land of Snow and into the Kingdom of Sweets. Clara cannot believe her eyes. Everywhere she looks, there are delights. Escorted by her Nutcracker Prince, Clara finds herself in a grand palace full of exotic treats.

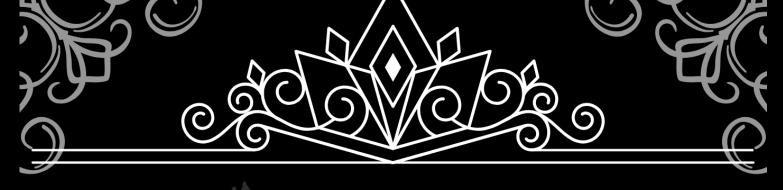


## ACT II (CONTINUED) THE SUGAR PLUM PALACE

Upon their arrival, Clara and the Nutcracker are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her attendants. She invites the Nutcracker and Clara to share the tale of the evening's events. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her guests are impressed with Clara's bravery and the Nutcracker's heroism. In their honor, the Sugar Plum Fairy hosts a lavish festival for the heroic pair. Clara and her Nutcracker Prince are treated like royalty and honored with a presentation of dances from all over the world.

The first is that of the Spanish Chocolate Dancers who perform to the lively music of trumpets and castanets in a Spanish fandango. Next, the Arabian Princess and her Enchanter move like rising steam to the entrancing Arabian song of Arabian Coffee Dancers. Third, Chinese Tea Dancers move to an ethereal Asian flute chorus, jumping and twirling like acrobats. With a burst of energy, a Russian Trepak pair, one of whom looks much like Clara's Uncle Drosselmeyer, burst forward leaping and dancing to invigorating music. The atmosphere lightens, and beautiful Italian Marzipan Dancers join in the festivities filling the castle with fanciful dances.





## ACT II (CONTINUED) THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

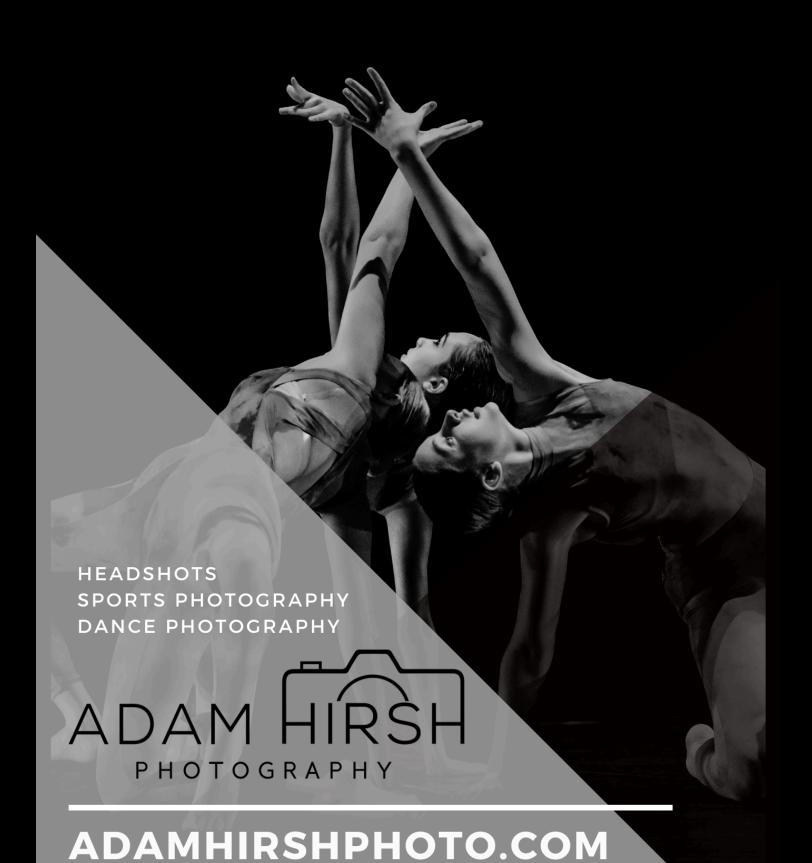
To Clara's delight, there is still more to be seen. The boisterous Mademoiselle Gigogne, dances into the Sugar Plum Fairy's court. In a grand gesture, little French Polichinelle's tumble out dancing and circling around them. At Mademoiselle Gigogne's call, the Polichinelle's exuberantly file back behind the noble lady's dress as she blows kisses in a grand exit from the court.

Soon after, beautiful dancing Petals, Leaves and a Rose float into the room to the melody of a gentle harp. For Clara, this is the most beautiful waltz she has ever seen. At the invitation of the floral array, the Nutcracker Prince and Clara dance with joy as the flowers move in beautiful, mesmerizing patterns.

# ACT II (CONTINUED) THE DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Clara is excited to see what delight may enter next. As the flowers float to the ballroom floor, the British Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier glide to the center of the court. They begin a dance that is lighter than air and one that completes Clara's perfect evening. The festival concludes with everyone in a grand finale. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her court bid Clara and the Nutcracker Prince farewell as they climb into the shimmering sleigh and sail through the night back to the Stahlbaum home.

As the sun rises on Christmas morning, Fritz races to the Christmas tree to discover his present, a gleaming sword. Overjoyed, he runs to Clara, who is asleep on the couch, waking her from her dream. Clara and Fritz gather in the center of the living room while Clara, holding the Nutcracker doll, recounts her marvelous dream.



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www.OvationsStudios.com



# GREATAMERICANPHOTO BY VICTOR O'NEILL STUDIOS



### 10:30 AM

Featuring Julia Wong as Clara and Emily Blumenfeld as Fritz

2:30 PM

Featuring Margaret Carroll as Clara and Grace Milano as Fritz

6:30 PM

Featuring Margaret Carroll as Clara and Grace Milano as Fritz

### ACT I THE PARTY SCENE

Frau Stahlbaum Herr Stahlbaum Grandma Stahlbaum Darcy Armitage
William Feldon
Sadie Harrison

Clara

10:30: Julia Wong

2:30 & 6:30: Margaret Carroll

Fritz

10:30: Emily Blumenfeld

2:30 & 6:30: Grace Milano

**Maids** 

Chloe McCarrick, Katherine Rosenthall

**Party Parents** 

Theodore Alexander, Daniel Allison, Anna Barone, Campbell Goldston, Violet Higley, Landon B. Jenkins, Michael Collier Melendez, Aliza Mendel

l

Party Girls | Sophia Crawford,

Beatriz Garcia-Stember, Amelia Silver,

Sydney Spaisman

**Party Boys** 

Claire Allen, Zoey Argintar, Maddie Friedman, Sadie Stanley

Drosselmeyer Magician's Assistant Bryant Howard Magdalena Harrison

Harlequin Doll
Columbine Doll

Finnegan Tremblay Emma Milano

Party Scene & Midnight Understudies

Frau Stahlbaum: Meryl Rinn Maids: Sophia Schulman Song Bird: Ayelet Magder

### ACT I MIDNIGHT & THE BATTLE SCENE

Song Bird

**Christmas Tree Birds** 

Emma Kelly

Taylor Coates, Leigh Drujak, Maya Gupta,

Jane Parker

**Nutcracker Prince** 

Michael Collier Melendez

Soldiers

10:30: Serafina Meek, Sofia Ortiz,

Nora Podor, Rory Shartar,

Addison Wegner

2:30 & 6:30: Emerson Brock, Franny Carroll, Louise Espinel,

Caroline Kenny, Sloane McCarrick,

Adele Saxe, Blake Wellborn

**Mouse King** 

10:30: Emily Blumenfeld

2:30 & 6:30: Grace Milano

**Baby Mouse** 

10:30: Tobin Kirsch

2:30 & 6:30: Franny Forte & Laney Roeser

Mice

10:30: Vivian Bank, Ava Ghosh,

Riley Goldman, Claire Tamny,

Vivienne White

2:30 & 6:30: Annemieke Bianco,

Camila Garcia-Stember, Lainey Schreiber,

Sloan Spaisman

### ACT I THE SNOW SCENE

Snow Queen Snow King Daniella Kulp Landon B. Jenkins

Snow Flurries
Snow Crystals

Angela Mastrostefano, Meryl Rinn Sofiia Remizova, Katya Schooling, Sophia Schulman, Chetty Thomas Taylor Coates, Leigh Drujak, Maya Gupta, Jane Parker

**Snow Drops** 

**Snowflakes** 

10:30: Jane Alexander, Catherine Betz, Emery Bixler, Ismenia (Izzy) Doyle, Sophie Foster, Elizabeth Gardner, Roxie Goldman, Ella Lerman, Ruby McLain, Angelica Meek, Molly Podor, Charlotte Roberts 2:30 & 6:30: Frances Espinel, Perry Frye, Marley Godoy, Liesl Hetherington, Clara Kearns, Cate Kenny, Caroline Klug, Wylie Mackie, Charlotte Murray, Millie Stanley

Reindeer

10:30: Sylvia Jones, Lola Ortiz2:30 & 6:30: Charlotte West, Grace West

Snow Scene Understudies

Snow Flurry: Serena Perelman Snow Crystal: Sierra Godes

#### TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

December 14th, 2025

## ACT II THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

British Sugar Plum Fairy British Sugar Plum Cavalier Darcy Armitage William Feldon

Royal Herald Royal Attendants Royal Courtiers Vivian Porter
Charlotte Balboa, Catherine Cahlink
Sonia Bohley, Sierra Godes,
Chloe McCarrick, Emma Milano,
Finnegan Tremblay, Audrey Yedwab

Clara

10:30: Julia Wong

**Nutcracker Prince** 

2:30 & 6:30: Margaret Carroll Michael Collier Melendez

Reindeer

10:30: Sylvia Jones, Lola Ortiz

2:30 & 6:30: Charlotte West, Grace West

Spanish Chocolate

Aliza Mendel

Arabian Coffee Princess

Arabian Coffee Enchanter

Violet Higley
Theodore Alexander

**Arabian Coffee Dancers** 

Claire Allen, Zoey Argintar, Sophia Crawford, Maddie Friedman, Beatriz Garcia-Stember, Amelia Silver, Sydney Spaisman, Sadie Stanley

Kingdom of Sweets Understudies

British Sugar Plum Fairy: Ava Zabransky Royal Herald: Emma Milano Royal Attendant: Sonia Bohley Chinese Tea Soloist: Charlotte Balboa Chinese Tea Dancers: Finnegan Tremblay Mademoiselle Gigogne: Taylor Coates

## ACT II THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

Chinese Tea Soloist
Chinese Tea

Campbell Goldston
Charlotte Balboa, Catherine Cahlink,
Chloe McCarrick, Katherine Rosenthall

**Russian Trepak** 

Sadie Harrison & Bryant Howard

Italian Marzipan Soloist Italian Marzipan Dancers Anna Barone Sierra Godes, Sofiia Remizova, Katya Schooling, Sophia Schulman, Chetty Thomas

Mademoiselle Gigogne French Polichinelles Grace Schreiber
10:30: Roxie Goldman, Sylvia Jones,
Ruby McLain, Lola Ortiz,
Charlotte Roberts
2:30 & 6:30: Liesl Hetherington,
Caroline Klug, Charlotte Murray,
Charlotte West, Grace West

Rose Petals Angela Mastrostefano Daniella Kulp, Ayelet Magder, Caroline McCann, Jana Miller, Serena Perelman, Vivian Porter, Claire Ryan, Ava Zabransky

Leaves

Theodore Alexander, Landon B. Jenkins

Thank You for being a part of our community & supporting our dancers.

We hope you have joyous holiday

