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FLORIDA ARTS & DANCE COMPANY  
PRESENTS

# The Nutcracker

IN COLLABORATION WITH PROFESSIONAL GUEST ARTISTS



## *Building strong youth, through the power of dance!*

Welcome to Florida Arts & Dance Company's Annual Production of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker. We are so proud to be hosting our Nutcracker performances at The Lyric Theatre for more than 25 years!

It is my joy and privilege to share this beloved holiday tradition with you. One of the greatest delights at FADC is watching our dancers discover the wonder of this timeless story. Ballet gives us the opportunity to tell meaningful stories, evoke emotion, and spark imagination and The Nutcracker remains one of the most treasured productions in our community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our talented staff for their dedication to our students; to our Board of Directors and parent volunteers for their time and support; and to our dancers, whose commitment and hard work bring this enchanted world to life on stage.

FADC offers dancers unique opportunities to explore multiple roles and gain meaningful experience in a full-length ballet. This season, we are thrilled to perform alongside our alumni and to welcome returning guest artist Isaiah Gonzalez, whose character and excellence continue to inspire our dancers. We are also proud to introduce Quinlan Cumiskey as our Cavalier. And in a special milestone for our studio, three of our senior dancers are highlighted; Harper Keck and Jodi Simmons will share the coveted role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Grace Lovaglio will dance the Arabian Duet. Their years of dedication, artistry, and poise at FADC have led them to this moment, and we are incredibly proud to see them shine in these pinnacle roles.

To our sponsors, thank you for your generosity. Your support sustains our mission and makes productions like this possible. As we celebrate more than 25 years, we honor the legacy built by our founders and the continued strength of our community.

Florida Arts & Dance Company is a 501(c)(3) not for profit cultural arts organization committed to providing high-quality dance education in a warm and encouraging environment. Our students develop confidence, discipline, creativity, persistence, and the pursuit of excellence; qualities that serve them far beyond the stage. Whether a dancer dreams of performing professionally, in college, or simply for the joy of movement, we welcome all to our FADC family.

To continue this important work, we rely on community support. We invite you to partner with us as we enrich children's lives and nurture a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Wishing you and your family a joyful and memorable holiday season.

Joann Gallagher  
Board President  
Florida Arts & Dance Company



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### **Guest Artists**

Quinlan Cumiskey

Isaiah Gonzalez



We are delighted to welcome back past alumni to be dancing  
with us and helping out backstage!

Kailiegh Bates Montes, Sophie Bennett, Lily Cave,  
Mina Hamilton, Emma Hart, Neshiyqah Knight, Erica McCue,  
Audrey Mila, Sydney Wise



## FADC, Where Everyone is a Star...

FADC was founded with a vision to enhance cultural awareness through dance education and performance opportunities. We continue to expand this mission through programs for special needs and at risk children, dance training in a variety of disciplines, adult programs and early childhood programs.

### DANCE INCLUSION



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### NUTCRACKER DISCOVERY SERIES



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This is a unique therapeutic exercise program that uses dance and music to help students in the Martin County School District ESE Program. This program gives these children self-confidence while also improving their physical and mental abilities. The students are given the opportunity to perform and show their achievements. This program is funded by the Gordana Uscumlic Foundation and Women Supporting the Arts.

This program services 35 to 40 children at each school from the Dunbar Daycare and Gertrude Walden Childcare center. The children have the opportunity to experience the joy of creative movement, jazz, or pre-ballet as well as build self-confidence.

This yearly performance series is a collaboration with the Martin County Library System that brings literacy to life. Each year a classic children's book is choreographed into a performance. This program gives the FADC students the opportunity to perform as well as enriching young audience members.

In conjunction with *The Lyric Theatre*, FADC provides *The Nutcracker* ballet to school age children at a discounted rate. This program is to insure all of our communities' children are able to gain the experience of live theatre performances.

Through the generosity of Nancy O'Malley, this fund was established over twenty five years ago and furthers the education of dedicated young dancers. Scholarships are based on financial need. We have been able to have many talented students start or continue their dance education because of the program.





# Joann

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## Jane,

*We think you've already made it to shore!*  
*We love you so much!*

*Love, Mom and Dad*



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 of coming home.

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Jodi,

We are so proud of all your hard work, dedication, and joy for ballet – this year as Sugar Plum and in all your roles and years prior since you began dance back in kindergarten. Keep shining so bright and beautiful with the love and light of Jesus from within you!

We love you beyond words!  
Mom, Dad, and Lilly



*Harper Ann Keck*



Watching you in The Nutcracker every year has been magical. We are so excited to be by your side as you continue on in your dance journey!

Love, Mom, Dad and Charlotte

*Class of 2026*



Grace,

Last Nutcracker with my durt partner and best friend. I love you and I'm so proud of you!

Love, Nat



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Her Nutcracker family means a lot to her!

When we arrive all the girls say hi to Faith, they include her as they get ready to dance and made sure she is where she is supposed to be. FADC is a very caring environment!

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My name is **Grace Lovaglio**. (Pictured above right) I will be graduating from Martin County High School. My plans after high school are to attend Florida Atlantic University and major in business and minor in dance to one day open my own dance studio. I have been dancing for 13 years and have been at FADC for all 13 of them. My favorite styles of dance are hip hop, modern, and ballet. My favorite Nutcracker role that I have performed is Arabian. My favorite memories from FADC would be having our parties in the studio after our big performances!

Hi, I am **Harper**. (pictured above center) I started dancing when I was three years old, and it has been a huge part of my life ever since. I've spent the last five years training at FADC, and those years have helped me grow so much as a dancer. For the past three summers, I've attended the Ballet Palm Beach Summer Intensive, which was challenging but so much fun. Ms. Erica from Ballet Florida, and also a teacher at FADC, has been one of the biggest influences in pursuing a professional journey. The role I'm most proud of so far is Sugar Plum, a part I've dreamed of performing since I was a little girl. After high school, I plan to earn my BFA in dance at a four-year college or university and eventually dance professionally in a ballet company. Ballet is my favorite style, but I also love taking modern and contemporary.

Hello, my name is **Jodi** (pictured above on the left) and I am a current high school senior at the Morningside Academy. I have been dancing for 13 years and my favorite styles are ballet, contemporary and lyrical. I have been with FADC for 4 years and my favorite role I have done so far has been the sugar plum fairy. It has been such a fun journey to learn the role for Nutcracker this year! After high school I plan to study sciences, most likely biochemistry and hopefully become a pharmacologist while also keeping up with ballet and teaching. One of my absolute favorite FADC memories has been doing the Disney Dance Workshop and getting to spend time with my dance friends!

# THE NUTCRACKER

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Based on the fairytale by E.T.A. Hoffmann

## ACT I

It is Christmas Eve, 1830. At the Silverhaus home, preparations are underway for an elaborate celebration. Young Clara and her brother Fritz are filled with anticipation as the guests begin to arrive. A mysterious man joins the party. It is Dr. Drosselmeyer, the children's beloved godfather. Dr. Drosselmeyer demonstrates his magical creations and presents a toy theatre complete with dancing dolls to the Silverhaus family. He also presents Clara, his favorite godchild, a curious and magical nutcracker soldier. Fritz grabs the nutcracker from Clara and breaks it. Dr. Drosselmeyer comforts Clara and mends the toy with a handkerchief bandage. The party guests dance one last dance before they go home. Later that night, under Dr. Drosselmeyer's spell, Clara returns to the living room. Unbeknownst to her, Dr. Drosselmeyer has cast a spell over the entire room. Suddenly before her eyes, the Christmas tree grows to gargantuan heights. An army of mice, led by the mighty Mouse King invades the room. Clara's nutcracker springs to life and leads a company of toy soldiers into battle against the mischievous mice. Drosselmeyer gives Clara a candle which she hurls at the Mouse King. With that one courageous act the tide turns in the battle, and the soldiers defeat the mice. Dr. Drosselmeyer's magic turns the brave Nutcracker into a handsome prince. He leads Clara out into an Enchanted Forest where beautiful snow flakes dance as she continues her journey to the land of the sweets.

## ACT II

Clara and the Nutcracker Prince arrive at the Palace of Sweet where the Sugarplum Fairy and angels greet them. The Nutcracker places a crown upon her head as the Sugar Plum Fairy's kingdom entertains Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. Exotic dancers from faraway lands perform for Clara and the Prince. They are visited by Spanish, Chinese, Candy Canes, Mother Ginger and her Pollichnelles, Arabian, Marzipan, and Dancing flowers. The Sugarplum fairy dances in a grand farewell gesture and every inhabitant of this magical land gather to bid Clara a happy journey home. Clara then comes out of the spell to find herself back in her living room. She is very puzzled but delighted to see her beloved Nutcracker doll. She longs to go back on the journey and see the Prince.

**"LIFE IS LIKE A BALLET PERFORMANCE,  
DANCED ONLY ONCE." – MALI**

Continue to follow your dreams and stay true to  
yourself.

We love you!

Mom and Dad



*Your entire family is so proud of you.*

*Thank you for all the joy you bring into our lives.*

*"She is clothed with strength and dignity"*

*Proverbs 31:25*

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The Nutcracker!



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# Guest Artists



**Isaiah Gonzalez** is a graduate of New World School of The Arts where they prioritize concert dance. Mr. Gonzalez is a dance member of Whole Project Dance Company where he has the privilege to work for Brigid Baker who was the main choreographer for years with Ballet Biarritz. He has also had the chance to study Modern dance techniques like Graham, Cunningham and Horton as well as techniques from many teachers. Mr. Gonzalez has performed and starred in works by Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris and Ohad Naharin. Now he is working with Emily Ricca and her dance company. He has performed for the Key West Ballet, in living color dance company and more to create works that shine a light on dance from different periods of time and contemporary works of art that can be enjoyed by many.



**Quinlan Dante Cumiskey** is a professional ballet dancer from Florida whose training and performance career has taken him across the U.S., Ireland, and most recently to Ballet Palm Beach, where he is currently performing under the direction of Colleen Smith. His credits include leading and featured roles in Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, La Fille Mal Gardée, Le Corsaire, The Great Gatsby, and numerous productions of The Nutcracker, dancing everything from Arabian and Chinese to the Prince. Quinlan has also appeared with the Palm Beach Opera, performed at the NSAL Regional Competition, guest-starred with Vero Classical Ballet, and filmed for the upcoming TV series Mendel's Messiah. His extensive training includes programs with San Francisco Ballet, Ellison Ballet, Ballet West, The Art of Classical Ballet, and Ballet Ireland, many under merit scholarships. With a passion for strong partnering, storytelling through movement, and continual artistic growth, Quinlan is honored to perform as Cavalier with Florida Arts & Dance Company this season.

**Friday, December 12th 7pm and Saturday 13th 2pm**

**Act 1**

**Mother** Jane Copley

**Father** Ron Swanson

**Drosselmeyer** Wade Wilson

**Clara** Aleena McCue

**Fritz** Molly Conley

**Nanny** Faith Beurrier and Taylor Melnicoff

**Parents** Natalie Allison, Kaileigh Bates Montes, Cayman Foster, Isaiah Gonzalez,  
Harper Keck, Grace Lovaglio, Erica McCue, Jose Rayo

**Friends** Darcy Adcock, Eliana Brenner, Amelia Conley, Denise Ebner,  
MacKenzie Kohnke, Sadie Kushner, Mia Rayo, Charlotte Snyder

**Party Children** Ella Mae Conley, Easton Ebner, Wyatt McCue

**Dolls:** **Doll 1** Tatiana Pail

**Doll 2** Amelia Peters

**Doll 3** Nicole Mestre

**Doll 4** Logan Howlett and Leyna Kujawa

**Nutcracker** Ron Swanson

**Nutcracker Prince** Batman

**General** Isla Hudson

**Soldiers** Amelia Conley, Reshaad Delancy, Easton Ebner, Leyna Kujawa,  
Amelia Peters, Cara Reid

**Cadets** Ezell Dawes and Tatiana Pail

**King Mouse** Jose Rayo

**Mice** Natalie Allison, Faith Beurrier, Jane Copley, Rechelle Delancy, Ava Garten,  
Jacob Hamilton, Sophia Hine, Grace Lovaglio, Vivianne Lovaglio, Nicole Mestre

**Snow King** Isaiah Gonzalez

**Snow** Kaileigh Bates Montes, Sophie Bennett, Lily Cave, Mina Hamilton,  
Emma Hart, Neshiyqah Knight, Taylor Melnicoff

**Act 2**

**Lead Angel** Cara Reid

**Angels** Molly Conley, Ella Mae Conley, Rechelle Delancy, Denise Ebner,  
Vivianne Lovaglio, Charlotte Synder

**Spanish** Natalie Allison and Grace Lovaglio

**Marzipan Lead** Jane Copley

**Marzipan** Amelia Conley and Tatiana Pail

**Candy Cane Lead** Nicole Mestre

**Candy Canes** Darcy Adcock, Denise Ebner, MacKenzie Kohnke, Sadie Kushner,  
Vivianne Lovaglio, Mia Rayo, Charlotte Snyder

**Arabian** Isaiah Gonzalez and Grace Lovaglio

**Chinese** Lily Cave

**Mother Ginger** Faith Beurrier

**Bon Bon** Ryann Agnew, A'Annie Anderson, Da'Kaiden Brown, Siah Dames, Derrick  
Dean, Legacy Dennis, Jayceon Ellis, Julian Figueroa, Sabrina Franklin, Jalen Green,  
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**Dew Drop** Natalie Allison

**Waltz of the Flowers** Jane Copley, Ava Garten, Emma Hart, Isla Hudson, Grace Lovaglio,  
Harper Keck, Leyna Kujawa, Nicole Mestre, Amelia Peters, Cara Reid

**Sugar Plum and Cavalier** Quinlan Cumiskey and Jodi Simmons

**Saturday 13th 7pm and Sunday 14th 3pm**

**Act 1**

**Mother** Jane Copley

**Father** Ron Swanson

**Drosselmeyer** Wade Wilson

**Clara** Cara Reid

**Fritz** Ella Mae Conley

**Nanny** Faith Beurrier, Jodi Simmons, Taylor Melnicoff

**Parents** Natalie Allison, Kaileigh Bates Montes, Cayman Foster, Isaiah Gonzalez,  
Harper Keck, Grace Lovaglio, Erica McCue, Jose Rayo

**Friends** Darcy Adcock, Amelia Conley, MacKenzie Kohnke, Aleena McCue,  
Tatiana Pail, Amelia Peters, Mia Rayo, Charlotte Snyder

**Party Children** Molly Conley, Easton Ebner, Paige Gasior, Wyatt McCue, Lucy Michener

**Dolls:** **Doll 1** Sadie Kushner

**Doll 2** Ava Garten

**Doll 3** Isla Hudson

**Doll 4** Logan Howlett and Leyna Kujawa

**Nutcracker** Ron Swanson

**Nutcracker Prince** Batman

**General** Isla Hudson

**Soldiers** Amelia Conley, Reshaad Delancy, Easton Ebner, Leyna Kujawa,  
Aleena McCue, Amelia Peters

**Cadets** Ezell Dawes and Sadie Kushner

**King Mouse** Jose Rayo

**Mice** Natalie Allison, Faith Beurrier, Jane Copley, Rechelle Delancy, Ava Garten,  
Jacob Hamilton, Sophia Hine, Grace Lovaglio, Vivianne Lovaglio, Nicole Mestre

**Snow King** Isaiah Gonzalez

**Snow** Kaileigh Bates Montes, Sophie Bennett, Lily Cave, Mina Hamilton, Emma Hart,  
Neshiyqah Knight, Taylor Melnicoff

**Act 2**

**Lead Angel** Isla Hudson

**Angels** Molly Conley, Rechelle Delancy, Denise Ebner, Paige Gasior,  
Vivianne Lovaglio, Lucy Michener

**Spanish** Lily Cave, Emma Hart, Nicole Mestre

**Marzipan Lead** Natalie Allison

**Marzipan** Sadie Kushner and Tatiana Pail

**Candy Cane Lead** Ava Garten

**Candy Canes** Darcy Adcock, Ella Mae Conley, Denise Ebner, Vivianne Lovaglio,  
MacKenzie Kohnke, Mia Rayo, Charlotte Snyder

**Arabian** Isaiah Gonzalez and Grace Lovaglio

**Chinese** Isla Hudson, Leyna Kujawa, Aleena McCue, Amelia Peters

**Mother Ginger** Faith Beurrier

**Bon Bon Lead** Amelia Conley

**Bon Bon** Darcy Adcock, Molly Conley, Ella Mae Conley, Rechelle Delancy,  
Denise Ebner, Paige Gasior, Mackenzie Kohnke, Vivianne Lovaglio,  
Lucy Michener, Mia Rayo

**Dew Drop** Natalie Allison

**Waltz of the Flowers** Jane Copley, Ava Garten, Emma Hart, Isla Hudson, Grace Lovaglio,  
Leyna Kujawa, Aleena McCue, Nicole Mestre, Amelia Peters, Jodi Simmons

**Sugar Plum and Cavalier** Quinlan Cumiskey and Harper Keck