



THE Nutcracker

DEC 2 & 3
2023

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

ACB

ALAMEDA CIVIC BALLET
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ABRA RUDISILL

Ice at the Veranda

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 THRU
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

SPONSORED BY



PURCHASE TICKETS HERE!



THE
VERANDA



@ SHOPTHEVERANDA
SHOPTHEVERANDA.COM

2001-2003 DIAMOND BLVD | CONCORD, CA 94520



ACB

THE Nutcracker

CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

December 2, at 2 PM

December 3 at 2 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rachel Lee | President

Jay Cheung | Treasurer

Amy Little | Secretary

Pamela Cavazos | Director

Diana Gibson-Pace | Director

Abra Rudisill | Director

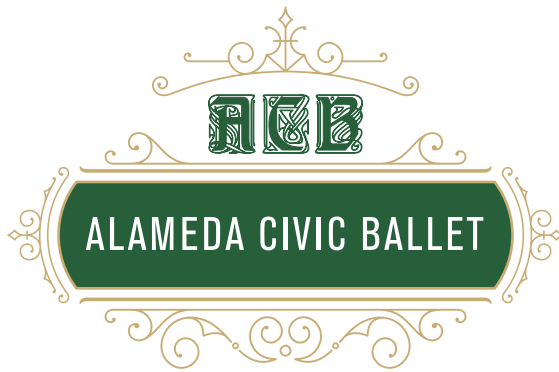
Emilie Skinner | Director of Operations

ALAMEDA CIVIC BALLET

Artistic Director: Abra Rudisill

510-337-1929 | alamedacivicballet.org

Alameda Civic Ballet is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization



Alameda Civic Ballet was founded in 2003 by Abra Rudisill, and is a nonprofit charitable organization that strives to create and present quality community accessible ballet performances, while providing young dancers the opportunity to gain valuable experience performing alongside professional dancers.

What started as a twinkle of an idea in our studio, the showcase of *Nutcracker Divertissement* in 2003 expanded to the *Nutcracker Excerpts* in 2004, and became a full length production in 2005. Since then we have continued to grow and Alameda's own *Nutcracker* has become a beloved holiday tradition for the community.

With new staging and an invigorated community of volunteers, we are thrilled to be back on stage presenting our 19th Annual *Nutcracker*. We are so proud of the hard work, passion and creativity, much of it from our volunteers, that has allowed us to thrive. We are honored to be embraced as a community treasure and a bastion for the performing arts.

**We couldn't do it
without you!**



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ABRA RUDISILL

Born in Brooklyn, Ms. Rudisill began dancing at the age of six. She trained at Ballet Del Monte Sol in Santa Fe, and later joined the San Francisco Dance Theater under the direction of Penelope Johnson and Jody White. She traveled to NYC where she studied with Robert Denvers and David Howard. She was then invited to join Pavlova Celebration, a company dedicated to performing works performed by Anna Pavlova.



Touring nationally and internationally with the company, she worked with Irene Fokine, Ruth Page, Alexander Gudunov, and Clark Tippet. In 1982, at the invitation of artistic director Ronn Guidi, Ms. Rudisill joined Oakland Ballet eventually becoming a prima ballerina of the company.

Mr. Guidi created many roles for Ms. Rudisill, including her favorite, Juliet, earning her accolades as a “world class Juliet” and “the definitive Juliet” by critics. In 1998, Ms. Rudisill was nominated for an Izzie Award in Outstanding Achievement in Individual Performance for her role as Caroline in Anthony Tudor’s Lilac Garden.

In 2002, Ms. Rudisill retired from Oakland Ballet after 20 years as a principal ballerina and ballet mistress. Abra was presented with a Shining Stars in the Arts Award for excellence in dance performance, scholarship programs, and mentoring youth by the Alameda City Arts Council in May of 2004.

❖ **Denise Brady** | Costume Designer

Denise began training in England and continued her education in Portland. She danced with the Berkeley City Ballet and the Alameda Chamber Ballet. In 1989, she was invited to join Dance Through Time, a company that performs choreography spanning 500 years of social dance. She began sewing at an early age, and has designed and constructed costumes for numerous ballets and has re-created historic ball gowns and uniforms for Dance Through Time and the Alameda Vintage Dancers. Denise assisted Abra Rudisill with the formation of the Alameda Civic Ballet. She is an Alameda realtor and is involved with local historic preservation.



❖ **David Henry** | Drosselmeyer

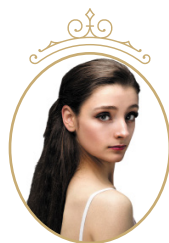
David has had a diverse professional career. Beginning in the 70s, he toured with Khadra International Folk Ballet and with Westwind International folk ensemble. He trained in ballroom and teaches American, International and Latin style dance. He rose to the corps at Oakland Ballet, where he first met Abra. He was also a member of Berkeley Ballet Theater, Peninsula Ballet Theater, Solano Civic Ballet, Palesch Pacific Ballet, and Redwood Empire Ballet. He guest starred at Berkeley City Ballet, Petaluma Dance Theater, and Ballet Fantastic.





❖ **Florrie Geller*** | Sugar Plum Fairy

Florrie began her training with Marcia Dale Weary and faculty at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. She continued her education at Next Generation Ballet with Ivonne Lemus and directors Peter Stark and Philip Neal, performing Aurora and Giselle in their full-length productions. She continued her professional training with Wilhelm Burmann and Magaly Suarez. At 18, Florrie joined Cincinnati Ballet and in 2019, she represented the USA at the Beijing International Ballet and Choreographic Competition. Florrie has been featured in Dance Spirit Magazine and the podcasts Becoming Ballet, and Dancer Talks. This is her first year as a member of the Oakland Ballet Company and her first time performing with Alameda Civic Ballet.



❖ **AL Abraham*** | Sugar Plum Cavalier

AL Abraham is an artist from the Philippines, started dancing at the age of 10 with the Effie Nañas Dance Center and later joined the Cultural Center of the Philippines dance school. He is a graduate of Philippine High School for the Arts as a ballet major and holds a diploma in Creative Performing Arts from the University of the Philippines. In his professional career he has danced with Ballet Philippines, Alice Reyes Dance, and most recently with Springfield Ballet. This is his first year as a member of the Oakland Ballet Company and his first time performing with Alameda Civic Ballet.



Calvin Thomas, Jr. | Mouse King

Calvin Thomas hails from Maysville, Kentucky, and received his foundational training at the Otto M. Budig Academy of Cincinnati Ballet. He has supplemented his studies at Boston Ballet School, The School of American Ballet, Ballet Austin Academy, and The School of Oregon Ballet Theatre. Performing with the Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Austin, Company C Contemporary Ballet and NY Theatre Ballet are among some of the highlights of his career. Calvin is an instructor at Alameda Ballet Academy and performs regularly with ACB.



Nicole Townsend* | Snow Queen

A native of San Jose, Nicole began her formal ballet training at Ballet San Jose and later at City Ballet School in San Francisco. She was awarded a scholarship to the Pacific Northwest Ballet 2019 summer intensive and was subsequently accepted into their Professional Division Program. After Nicole's first year she was awarded a full scholarship to Paris Opera Ballet 2020 summer intensive and was a recipient of the American Friends of Paris Opera Ballet Scholarship Award in 2020. She was then accepted into Kansas City Ballet Second Company. Nicole is now a member of Oakland Ballet Company.





❖ **Lawrence Chen*** | Snow King

Lawrence grew up in Southern California, studying ballet under the care of Victor and Tatiana Kasatsky from the age of thirteen. He has competed in the YAGP, placing in the Top 12 Pas De Deux in the New York Finals as well as in the Top 3 soloist at regional venues for several years. Lawrence has a BA in chemistry with mathematics from Pomona College, and was as a principal dancer for the Inland Pacific Ballet under Victoria Koenig. Lawrence works at a biotech company, tutors high school STEM subjects, and performs with Oakland Ballet Company. At OBC, he has performed in *Luna Mexicana* and *The Nutcracker*.



❖ **Quin Cavazos**** | Nutcracker Prince

ACB welcomes back Quin Cavazos as a Guest Artist in this year's Nutcracker. Quin graduated from ABA last spring and after auditioning for several year round programs he accepted the Diablo Ballet's scholarship offer and is now training with their professional ballet company. His debut performance with the Diablo Ballet Company's Nutcracker was a thrill and he's already in rehearsals for their production of Sleeping Beauty's Wedding, cast as the Big Bad Wolf. Returning to ACB is a joy and he looks forward to being a part of making your holidays merry and bright!



THE Nutcracker



Scene 1 The Stahlbaums' Christmas Eve Party

Maid Elizabeth Carr-Elkaim

Mother Rachel Falkner

Father Gail Foster

Governess Michele Leavy

Clara Natalie Wong (Saturday)
Morgan Chen (Sunday)

Fritz Francis Eberhard

Drosselmeyer David Henry

Ladies Phyllis Call, Elizabeth Rogatkin, Josephine Wong

Girls Claire An, Madison Chang, Kaleigh Low,
Megan Oyunbold, Harlowe Tripp, Raeleigh Yan

Gentlemen Chris Oropeza, James Ryan, Mark Theiding

Boys Kai Baker, Hugh Kyle, Kai Reeves-Meier,
James Thompson, Sirvon Toner, Jimmy Toner

Ballerina Doll Chloe An (Saturday)
Marissa Low (Sunday)

Toy Soldier Kian Reeves-Meier





❖ **Scene 2** Later that evening something mysterious begins to happen...



Mouse Queen Nicola Haskett

Mouse King Calvin Thomas, Jr.

Little Mice Sophie Cheng, Margot Chisholm, Séverine Colas, Noelani Doherty, Aria Eberhard, Solea Eberhard, Noelle Hichman, Madeline Inkeles, Mathilda Lawrenz, Alexis Leung, Haylee Luu, Wendy Medeiros, Darcy Nakayama, Harriet Pahati, Viola Pignolet, Olivia Ramirez, Scarlett Resnikoff, Sofia Vazquez Negrón, Kitt Luna Williams, Kira Yen

Big Mice Emmy Chen, Leila Goodwin, Olivia Gonzalez, Jullianna Rivera, Piper Tripp, Alice Tsyvinsky

Nutcracker Prince Quin Cavazos

Soldiers Claire Blethrow, Nicole Borgio, Francis Eberhard, Olivia Guo, Christopher Medeiros, Abeni Rabiú, Kian Reeves-Meier, William Roach, Joseph Zell

❖ **Scene 3** Journey through the Land of Snowflakes



Snow Queen Nicole Townsend



Snow King Lawrence Chen



Snowflakes Chloe An, Elizabeth Carr-Elkaim, Lainey Chen, Morgan Chen, Katelyn Choy, Nicola Haskett, Eliana Henderson, Marissa Low, Lauren Pace, Amy Suess, Natalie Wong





ACT
2



Arrival at the Kingdom of Sweets

Captains Aaron Carr-Elkaim, Gail Foster

Cherubs Brynn Degolia, Naia Doherty, Keira Gant,
Eowyn Gilling, Marie Krause, Colette Lau,
Mabel Lee, Cadence Louie, Julia Parziale,
Lucy Puckett, Morgan Roach, Jenna Saad,
Eleanor Toner

Angels Emmy Chen, Olivia Gonzalez,
Leila Goodwin, Julianna Marquis,
Jullianna Rivera, Piper Tripp, Alice Tsyvinsky

**Spanish
Chocolate** Elizabeth Carr-Elkaim, Katelyn Choy, Amy Suess

**Spanish
Churros** Claire Blethrow, Nicole Borgio,
Ilana Eustace-Shoham, Olivia Guo,
Audrey Nakayama, Abeni Rabiou, Liesl Roach,
Ivanna Rozenbaum, Colette Tanasse

Arabian Coffee Nicola Haskett, Eliana Henderson, Lauren Pace

Chinese Tea Lainey Chen

**Lucky the
Dragon** Olivia Gonzalez, Leila Goodwin, Jullianna Rivera,
Alice Tsyvinsky

Firecrackers Abby Bartlett, Ariel Choi, Juliana Dalander,
Phoebe Dubin, McKenna Gant, Rosalie Gorman,
Brynn Hanelt, Edith Lee, Luna Levine,
Emily Matthew, Everly Plambeck, Jojo Puckett,
Madeleine Puebla, Avril Solis, Hailey Tom,
Cecilia Wallis, Evelyn Wang, Sophia Zell



French Bonbons Chloe An, Marissa Low, Morgan Chen,
Natalie Wong

Petit-Fours Josephine Alegre, Olivia Bian, Amelia Chang,
Eleanor Chinn, Hailey Choi, Angela Deng,
Olivia Ha, Aria Hansen, Hazel Levy-Ranahan,
Zoey Luu, Viola Rosera-Holden,
Isabel Vazquez Negron

Russian Claire An, Sofia Chang, Madison Chang,
Kaleigh Low, Megan Oyunbold, Eleanor Pahati,
Kian Reeves-Meier, Harlowe Tripp, Raeleigh Yan

Mother Ginger Michele Leavy

Gingersnaps Heidi Alvarez, Kai Baker, Mina Baker,
Rosalie Bernstein, Mathea Chen, Gisele Cheung,
Meredith Cho, Violeta Jimenez, Iris Knight,
Nell Kyle, Sukhi Muse, Emily Ng, Alaia Pelham,
Sienna Quirk, Kaylie Sahagon, Joanna Sargent,
Eleanor Thompson

Waltz of the Flowers Chloe An, Lainey Chen, Morgan Chen,
Nicola Haskett, Eliana Henderson, Marissa Low,
Lauren Pace, Amy Suess, Natalie Wong

Sugar Plum Fairy Florrie Geller

Cavalier AL Abraham

Finale

The Nutcracker cast



Credits

Additional Choreography:

Kerry Abukhalaf | Spanish

Denise Brady | Parents' Dances

David Coll | Russian

Jeff Raz | Drosselmeyer's Magic

Artistic Director: Abra Rudisill

Dir. of Operations:

Emilie Skinner

Rehearsal Directors: David Henry, Abra Rudisill, Calvin Thomas, Jr., Claire Toner

Costume Design: Denise Brady

Wardrobe Manager:

Setsuko Kawazu

Digital Backgrounds: Jennifer Hoffecker & Jean-Francois Revon

Cannon Design & Construction:

Peter Brown

Set Construction: Scott Brady, Gail Foster, Bill Schroeder

Tree/Throne/Clock Construction: Jennifer Hoffecker, Bill Schroeder

Maintenance Manager:

Walker Foster

Videography: East Bay Video Core

Ticket Sales Coordinator:

Jay Cheung

Backstage Managers: Tamyra Gonzalez, Alina Reeves-Meier

Boutique Manager: Kriste Falkner

Graphic Design: Jennifer Hoffecker

Fundraising: Michael Toedman

**A huge Thank You to all our
dedicated volunteers!**



SUPPORT THE BALLET

Since 2003, Alameda Civic Ballet's *The Nutcracker* has become an annual holiday tradition. ACB provides young dancers the opportunity to participate in a quality production alongside professional dancers with beautiful costumes and sets.

HELP KEEP THIS TRADITION ALIVE

The ACB Nutcracker is a beautiful production, but an expensive and time consuming endeavor! Ticket sales only cover 65% of our production needs and we need help to offset these costs. Donate now using the **code below**.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NUTCRACKER

The beloved tale of the Nutcracker was not always the magical holiday tradition of today. Originally published in 1816 by E.T.A. Hoffman, “Kussknacker und Mausekonig” (“The Nutcracker and the Mouse King”) was a dark psychological story never intended for children. Using Alexandre Dumas’s watered-down adaptation as the basis for the ballet commissioned in Russia in 1891, Marius Pepita worked on the choreography until he became ill and his assistant Lev Ivanov finished the ballet. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was given the task of composing the musical score, though he would have preferred basing it on the original Hoffman tale deemed too complex to convey onstage. Indeed Tchaikovsky was far happier with *The Sleeping Beauty*, his previous ballet score.

La Casse Noisette premiered the following year on December 18, 1892, at the Mariinski Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia to mixed reviews.

As part of the imperial ballet is ongoing repertoire, the Nutcracker was not considered a seasonal production and was as likely to be seen in May as in December. It was first seen outside of Russia after World War I and the Russian Revolution, when segments were occasionally revived by dance refugees who immigrated from Russia.

More than half a century after its premiere, the first full length Nutcracker in North America was performed in 1944 at the War Memorial Opera House by San Francisco Ballet and choreographed by Lew Christensen. Ten years later, *The Nutcracker* became a phenomenon when George Balanchine’s staging for New York City Ballet aired as a televised holiday special and was seen in homes throughout the United States and Canada. Ever since, *The Nutcracker* has been a traditional part of the holiday season enchanting both children and adults alike.



1892 ballet “The Nutcracker” (Wikipedia)

Rotary



Club of Alameda

**Rotary Club of Alameda
is a proud
sponsor of
Alameda Civic Ballet's
Nutcracker**

Our mission is to provide service to others,
promote integrity, and advance world
understanding, goodwill, and peace through
fellowship of business, professional, and
community leaders.

Alameda Elks Lodge 1015
is proud to sponsor
the Alameda Civic Ballet's
2023 Nutcracker!



Serving Alameda, Oakland, and Emeryville to create social connections and help groups in our community: veterans, children with disabilities, students and more.



Find our more at alamedaelks.org



Trabocco
KITCHEN AND COCKTAILS

Winner Reader's Choice

Best Restaurant

Best Italian Restaurant

Best Chef - Giuseppe Naccarelli



BEST
of Alameda
2023

A proud supporter of
Alameda Civic Ballet
for over ten years

Trabocco.com

510.521.1152

2213 South Shore Center, Alameda



BAY ST
EMERYVILLE

Go Forth

{ but first take a break
at our newest eateries }

FLORES

FOGO DE CHÃO

PIPPAL REGIONAL INDIAN

TIPSY PUTT | TROPHY CLUB BAR

PHILZ COFFEE | HUMPHRY SLOCOMBE

SAUCY ASIAN | UCHIWA RAMEN

ARTHUR MAC'S LITTLE SNACK

SHAKE SHACK

