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The Story of Our Nuteracker Production

Performances of *The Nutcracker* have grown in a great American and Lehigh Valley tradition. The Lehigh Valley's *Nutcracker* tradition began fifty-three years ago in 1968. It was sponsored by The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley and was initially performed at the Allentown Symphony Hall, under the direction of Alexi Ramov. Through the generous grant contribution from The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley, and countless volunteer hours, the Ballet Guild's *Nutcracker* began.

While the Ballet Guild has undergone numerous changes throughout its own sixty-three year history, one constant in the organization's seasonal calendar has been our annual *Nutcracker* production. Countless Lehigh Valley children and adults have performed in *The Nutcracker* production under the direction of Alexi Ramov, Oleg Briansky and Mireille Briane, Aram Manukyan and current Artistic Director, Karen Kroninger Knerr. In addition, several Ballet Guild students have returned as professional guest artists to appear in this annual holiday treat. These alumni include: Peter Degnan and Susan Taylor Degnan of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre; Richard Fritz of the Los Angeles Ballet Company; Leslie Jonas of the Boston Ballet; Karen Kroninger, then of the Juilliard School; and Joseph Fritz of the New Jersey Ballet/Metropolitan Opera Ballet. The Ballet Guild has also brought the magic of *The Nutcracker* to over 100,000 local school students as part of our popular school performances.

Because of the initial contribution of The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley, countless volunteers, the Ballet Guild's Board of Directors, the hard work and dedication of our previous and current artistic directors and dancers, the generous support of our sponsors and donors and the greater Lehigh Valley community, the Ballet Guild is proud to present its 53rd consecutive *Nutcracker* production. Thank you for experiencing the magic and precision that we call *The Nutcracker*. Enjoy the show.



The Story of The Nuteracker

It is Christmas Eve. There is a party in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum, who are decorating the tree with the help of the maids. Clara and Fritz, the children of the house, exclaim with delight as they peep through the keyhole. Relatives and friends arrive for the evening's festivities. Once everyone has settled in, Dr. Stahlbaum organizes games and dances. After the presents have been distributed, there is an ominous occurrence: when the clock chimes, a frightening old owl flaps its wings and lights flicker eerily. The startled children run to their parents, and Herr Drosselmeyer appears at the door. He is a family friend, but nonetheless mysterious, with a patch covering one of his eyes! He has brought his handsome nephew Karl with him, and two boxes, which produce a Mechanical Doll and a Soldier Doll. In addition, there is a Nutcracker for Clara, which he presents to her after he demonstrates how it works. When her brother Fritz mischievously snatches it away and stomps on it, Herr Drosselmeyer repairs the broken Nutcracker's head by tying it in a handkerchief. Soon, all the girls are rocking their dolls to sleep.

The boys harass them by noisily tooting their trumpets and bugles. Shortly it is time for everyone to go to bed. Once all the guests have gone, Clara retrieves the Nutcracker, and cradling it in her arms, falls asleep on the sofa, where her mother covers her and lets her sleep. Suddenly, at midnight, Clara is awakened by the chiming of the clock, and is terrified to see Herr Drosselmeyer on the Grandfather clock flapping his cape. She jumps up and begins to run but encounters mice scurrying in every direction. In the midst of her dream, the Christmas tree begins to grow! Herr Drosselmeyer appears again, and from the folds of his cape emerges a life-sized Nutcracker. Magically, toy soldiers appear. The Nutcracker marshals them into battle against the mice and their King. At the height of the battle, Clara throws her slipper at the Mouse King, striking and stunning him, and the Nutcracker runs him through with his sword!

Magically Clara and The Nutcracker are transported to The Land of Snow under the spell of the Snow Queen and her Cavalier. In The Kingdom of Sweets, the Sugar Plum Fairy makes a regal entry attended by angels. When Clara and Herr Drosselmeyer's nephew—transformed into a Prince—arrive, they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, who invites them to taste some sweets. The Prince and Clara are seated on the throne and view the sumptuous offerings of the Sugar Plum Fairy's Kingdom, including Chocolate from Spain, Coffee from Arabia, Tea from China, Candy Canes, and Marzipan treats. Mother Ginger and her little Polichinelles arrive, as well as Waltzing Flowers and a Dew Drop, and there is a beautiful pas de deux by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. At the end of the Finale, everyone bids farewell to Clara and the Prince, as a walnut-shell boat carries them off—to where and what we shall never know. Yet, this is the magic and the beauty of *The Nutcracker*.



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Marjorie Berlin Fink, Founder –1958 Oleg Briansky & Mireille Briane, Artistic Directors Emeriti

Karen Knerr, Artistic Director Eugene Albulescu, Music Director

Guest Artists Dayesi Torriente and Arian Molina Soca

and

Malik Berry, Natalie Hedrick, Tevin Johnson

Saturday, December 11, 2021 - 2 p.m. Sunday, December 12, 2021 - 2 p.m.

Baker Hall, Zoellner Arts Center - 420 E. Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, PA

	P. I. Ichaikovsky
Based on a Story by	E. T. A. Hoffman
Choreography & Staging	Karen Knerr
Costumes by	
	Joanna Hoke, Drew Howard, Fritz Masten, Ruth McCormack, Erin Miller-Todd
Lighting Design	
Production & Stage Manager	
	Natalie Hedrick
Wardrobe Mistress	Kristin Dundon
Sets	J. Richard Fox, Grosh Scenic Studios
Act I Living Room Design	
Act I Living Room Scenic Art Services	
Christmas Tree	Scott Mathiesen
Technical Director	Scott Mathiesen
Photography	Hub Willson
Videographer	Video Theater

Unauthorized filming, videotaping or photographing of the performances is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to the start of the performance. All casting is subject to change.

Het I

Scene I "The Christmas Party"

Clara......Kate Jellison (Sat), Francesca Reto (Sun)

Fritz.....Kieran Hughes

Maids......Danielle Aslan, Linnea Crouch, Mina Hyndman, Isabella Massa

Dr. and Mrs. StahlbaumIan Lovell and Joyce Pencek Yoder

Herr Drosselmeyer.....Kristopher Yoder

Karl, his nephewCharles Bond

Patricia Kennedy, Sara Massa, Phillip Wallens, Erin Vavra

Jillian Maruscak, Avery Shear, Kayla Stahlnecker, Ainsley Wright *Boys:* Oliver Bond, Dawi Brosky, Graham Fleming, Manny Fraser,

Nicky Fraser, Jacob Hart, Everett Mason, Nolan Nuhfer, Guarionex

Rios-Davies, Yaguez Rios-Davies

Cousins: Sophia Mellendorf, Emeline Nebzydoski, Emilia Winmill

Columbine.....Brianna Dougherty (Sat), Kathryn Gianforcaro (Sun)

Harlequin.....Tevin Johnson

Soldier DollsFinola Hieter (Sat), Olivia Lovell (Sun)

Scene II "The Battle"

Toy SoldiersKelsey Bolash, Lahleli Brosky, Natalie Chamberlin, Juliana Conklin,

Jacob Hart, Everett Mason, Eliana Simonson-Campuzano,

Lorelei Zanelli

Understudy: Olivia Yeich

Mouse King.....Lauren Kunkle

MiceAndy Alulis, Zeby Fraser, Vera Hegedus, Kieran Hughes,

Alexandra Jabbour, Sophia Mellendorf, Mariarosa Moll,

Nabila Paonessa

The Nutcracker.....Sarah Bailey

The PrinceCharles Bond

Scene III "The Land of Snow"

Snow QueenNatalie Hedrick

Cavalier......Malik Berry

SnowflakesSarah Bailey, Ava Baraket, Brianna Dougherty (Sun), Ella Ebert,

Gwendolyn George, Kathryn Gianforcaro, Finola Hieter, Mai Hukuoka, Olivia Lovell, Olivia Quiros, Cecily Reed, Sara Stanley-Brizuela (Sat),

Anna Yorgey

Understudies: Danielle Aslan, Lauren Kunkle, Isabella Massa

\sim Intermission \sim

Het II "The Kingdom of Sweets"

	•	
Angels	Ohaya Brosky, Leona Carroll, Zoe Kemmerer, Jacelly Mercedes,	
	Jatna Mercedes, Sarina Schilling, Emilia Winmill, Eve Yorgey	
Lead Angels	Taryn Bullard, Linnea Crouch, Marley Gidusko, Mina Hyndman	
Chocolate from Spain	Sarah Bailey (Sun), Brianna Dougherty (Sat), Olivia Lovell (Sun),	
	Oliva Quiros (Sat)	
Coffee from Arabia	Malik Berry with Ella Ebert (Sun), Cecily Reed (Sat)	
	Attendants: Andy Alulis, Ava Baraket, Zeby Fraser, Isabel Stana	
Tea from China	Taryn Bullard, Linnea Crouch, Marley Gidusko, EllaMary Groller,	
	Kate Jellison (Sun), Francesca Reto (Sat), Avery Shear	
	Dragon: Kelsey Bolash, Lahleli Brosky, Lorelei Zanelli	
Candy Cane Lead	Tevin Johnson, with	
Candy Canes	Sophia Belet, Camryn Homa, Mina Hyndman, Jillian Maruscak,	
	Gianna Soares, Kayla Stahlnecker, Ainsley Wright, Sarah Zhong	
Marzipan	Brianna Dougherty (Sun), Ella Ebert (Sat), Gwendolyn George,	
	Kathryn Gianforcaro (Sat), Finola Hieter, Olivia Lovell (Sat),	
	Cecily Reed (Sun), Olivia Quiros (Sun), Anna Yorgey	
Mother Ginger	Ian Lovell	
Big Polichinelle	Nicky Fraser	
Little Polichinelles	Dawi Brosky, Manny Fraser, Jacob Hart, Everett Mason	
Polichinelles	Natalie Chamberlin, Juliana Conklin, Emeline Nebzydoski,	
	Nabila Paonessa, Cozette Strouse, Autumn Xia, Olivia Yeich,	
	Eve Yorgey	
Dew Drop	Mai Hukuoka	
Waltz of the Flowers	Danielle Aslan, Sarah Bailey, Brianna Dougherty (Sun),	
	Gwendolyn George (Sat), Ella Ebert, Kathryn Gianforcaro,	
	Finola Hieter (Sat), Lauren Kunkle, Olivia Lovell, Isabella Massa,	
	Olivia Quiros, Cecily Reed, Sara Stanley-Brizuela, Anna Yorgey (Sun)	
	Understudy: Ava Baraket	
Sugar Plum Fairy		
and Her CavalierDayesi Torriente, Arian Molina Soca		
FINALEALL		

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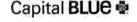
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Artistic Director



Karen Kroninger Knerr, Artistic Director since 2007, holds a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School where she trained in Graham, Taylor, and Limon techniques. She was a principal dancer with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, where she performed lead roles in *Cinderella* and *Coppélia*, as well as performing *Girl At Mirror* for the opening of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. In addition, Karen was a member of the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company. She has worked with and performed works by Dennis Nahat, Laura Dean, Frances Patrelli and Bill T. Jones. Karen holds an Intermediate Certification in Labanotation and is an ABT Certified Teacher, having completed intensive training in the American Ballet Theatre National

Training Curriculum, a high-quality artistic training that is combined with the basics of dancer health and child development. She has developed the outreach program, "Discover Dance", for the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. Karen teaches students from beginner level to advanced level for BGLV and has choreographed various works including Youth programs for the Allentown Symphony. In August 2019, Karen received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.

Artistic Directors Emerita



Mireille Briane entered the Paris Opera Ballet School at age seven, and studied there until her graduation. At the Opera Ballet school, she studied with some of the great teachers and artists of the day, but also found time to major in French literature. By the time she was eight, Mireille was performing regularly on stage, and by age sixteen she had become a Principal Dancer at the Grand Theatre of Bordeaux, France. Later, while appearing with Roland Petit's ballet company, she met and married dancer Oleg

Briansky. The artistic team became world-renowned as ballet teachers and coaches. Mireille Briane also directed children's ballets for television in France and Britain and taught for George Balanchine's School of American Ballet, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and many other prestigious dance organizations. Her version of *The Nutcracker* has been performed in the USA and abroad. From 1995 to 2006, the Brianskys served as artistic and educational directors of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. They were the founders and directors of the Briansky Saratoga Ballet Center summer ballet intensive at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, which was in operation for 43 years.

Guest Artists



Dayesi Torriente (Sugar Plum Fairy) began her ballet studies in 1999 at Pro-Dance Center, directed by the Grand Maitre de Ballet Laura Alonso. In 2000, she continued at the Alejo Carpentier Provincial School of Ballet and, upon completion, joined the National Ballet School under the guidance of Esther Garcia, Mirta Hermida, Ana Julia Bermudez, Ramona de Sáa, and Fernando Alonso. Dayesi also received bronze medals in national and international ballet competitions held in 2008 and 2009.

Dayesi joined Philadelphia Ballet as a soloist for our 2016/2017 season, debuting as the Winter Fairy in Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*. She followed up with a role in David Dawson's *The Third Light*, as well as principal and/or featured roles in *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker®*, *Le Corsaire*, and the world premieres of Nicolo Fonte's *Ghost Stories* and Matthew Neenan's *Somnolence*. Dayesi was promoted to the rank of principal dancer for the 2017/2018 season and is The Joyce and Herbert Kean Principal Dancer.

Prior to Philadelphia Ballet, Dayesi was with National Ballet of Cuba, which she joined in 2009 under the artistic and technical direction of Alicia Alonso. She was promoted to soloist in 2011 and then to principal dancer in 2015. While with National Ballet of Cuba, Dayesi preformed internationally in regions as far-reaching as Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, and South Africa.



Arian Molina Soca (Sugar Plum Cavalier) began his ballet studies in 2001 at the Alfonso Pérez Isaac Vocational School of Art and then, in 2006, joined the National Ballet School in Havana under the guidance of Elena Canga and Yuneisi Rodríguez, among other notable professors. Throughout his studies, Arian participated in a range of competitive events, including the 2008 International Ballet Teaching Academy Encounter, where he was awarded the bronze medal. He also participated in the Inter-Academy Encounters held in Mazatlán, Mexico in 2008 and then again in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Pretoria, South Africa in 2009.

Arian joined Philadelphia Ballet as a principal dancer for our 2015/2016 season, performing a range of works from the contemporary to the classic. He has danced principal and featured roles that include Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella* (Prince), Nacho Duato's *Remansos*, Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, Angel Corella's *Le Corsaire* (Conrad), and George Balanchine's *Western Symphony* (Fourth Movement).

Prior to Philadelphia Ballet, Arian danced with the Cuban National Ballet, which he joined in 2010 (upon graduation from the National Ballet School in Havana) and danced under the artistic and technical guidance of Alicia Alonso. He was promoted to first soloist in 2011 and principal dancer in 2012. While with the company, Arian performed internationally in North and South America, Europe, China, and South Africa. Arian also had the privilege of participating in performances to honor legendary Cuban dancer Alicia Alonso: first in 2012 at the *Viva Alicia!* Gala at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow on the occasion of her 90th birthday; then again in 2013 at a 20th Anniversary Gala at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid; and finally in 2013 at the International Ballet Gala at the Teatro at Montecasino in Johannesburg. Arian is The Mrs. Henry F. Harris Principal Dancer

Arian's repertoire includes soloist roles in major works of the romantic-classical period of the 19th century and contemporary works created by both Cuban and foreign choreographers. He is considered one of the most promising contemporary dancers to emerge from the Cuban School of Ballet.



Malik Berry (*Snow King, Arabian*) is a native from Columbus, Ohio and began dancing at the age of 15. Even though this is considered late in a dancer's life, he still pushed forward with his training. He trained at some of the most prestigious schools in the USA. In Columbus, he trained at the Columbus Dance Theatre, then moved to New York City and trained at American Ballet Theatre Collegiate Program, The Ailey School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem Professional Training Program. As a professional, Malik danced with Columbus Dance Theatre from 2012 to 2014, Complexions Contemporary Ballet in 2017 and he has performed as a Guest Artist with Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Malik is a freelance artist with the goal to inspire others to chase their dreams, to encourage others no matter where you come from or your circumstances, continue to chase your dreams. He has performed in amazing works such as *Memoria* choreographed by Alvin Ailey, *Stardust* choreographed by Dwight Rhoden & Desmond Richardson with guest artist Misty Copeland, Goodnight choreographed by Jae Man Joo, and Dougla choreographed by Geoffrey Holder.



Tevin Johnson (Harlequin, Candy Cane), At the age of 15, Syracuse, New York native, Tevin Johnson began his training. Johnson attended the Alvin Ailey's Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive on a scholarship in 2013 and attended in 2014; where he has worked with Christian Von Howard, Freddy Moore and Pedro Ruiz Jr. graduating Montclair State University with a BFA in dance; where he has been featured in works such as "Running Spirits" and "Wild and Free" (Draft5) by Fredrick Earl Mosley, Larry Keigwin, Christian Von Howard, Stacey Tookey and Camille A. Brown. He soon joined "Roxey Contemporary Ballet" company in New Jersey for two seasons and worked alongside their outreach programs. In 2020, Tevin became faculty for 'City College of Manhattan' theater department, while teaching at various

studios in New Jersey. Some of his many awards and honors include the Jenni-Lynn Watson Scholarship, Cento Amici Scholarship, and the 2014 National NAACP ACT-SO Gold Medal for Dance. He was also a featured Young Artist on *'Extraordinary People and Places in Central New York'* with Carrie Lazarus and featured in the 2016 calendar of 'Dancer's Among Us' by photographer Jordan Matter.

Adult Cast

Karen Amate (Party Guest), retired math and physics teacher at Lehigh Career & Technical Institute, has danced since age 3 and was a soloist at Ballet Theatre of Scranton, where she studied with Constance Reynolds. She taught ballet for 20 yeas in Hillsborought, NJ. Karen's many interests include adult ballet classes at BGLV, performing in *The Nutcracker*, playing handbells, performing liturgical dance, and helping prepare Polish foods and other goodies for her church's fundraisers. She is the mother of two sons, Daniel and Jeffrey, both Eagle Scouts. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren Rosie, Ben, Campbell, and Jill.

Trevor Colahan (*Party Guest*) was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley. He is a lifelong performer having had his first Ballet classes in his youth followed by years of theatre, music and other dance styles. Trevor shares his passion for the arts with his wife Diana, whom he met when cast as boyfriend and girlfriend in their high school musical, *The Music Man*. They both returned to ballet as adults at The Ballet Guild, and continue to share their love of dance with their son Patrick. When not performing, Trevor can be found on the Hurling pitch with the Allentown Hibernians or at his day job as a Senior Project Manager for ABEC, a global provider of integrated solutions and services for the biopharmaceutical industry, located in Bethlehem.

Stephen Davies (Party Guest) is cast members Rex and Yago's dad. He's a former actor, co-founder of the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and producer of the hit independent feature film, "Tattoo, A Love Story." This is his first time on stage in a long, long time.

Ian Lovell (Dr.Stahlbaum, Mother Ginger) has over twenty-five years of experience in the entertainment industry and a richly diverse background. In his native country of Trinidad and Tobago, Ian embraced music as a steel pan drummer and traveled the world as a sound engineer for the group TAXI. When the band separated, Ian remained in the entertainment industry living in NYC to pursue a career in acting and directing. While his first experiences in acting were through the Ujamaa Theatre Company in NYC, Ian quickly gained opportunities on screen. As a SAG and AFTRA member, Ian's repertoire includes work on TV shows such as the HBO prison drama OZ, the ABC soap opera All My Children, and NBC Law and Order as well as movies such as Down to Earth, Maid in Manhattan, Zoolander, and more. This is Ian's sixth performance with Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, having performed in The Nutcracker the past five years, and in Cinderella for the Spring 2015 season. Ian is proud to share the stage with all of the dancers including his daughter, Olivia Lovell.

Patricia Kennedy (Party Guest) is a creative individual who discovered the benefits and challenges of ballet instruction as an adult. She started with a beginner class at the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, fell in love and has been faithfully attending classes ever since. Although her favorite pastime is ballet class, she also enjoys being outdoors, spending time with her three grandchildren, as well as being creative with her lifelong passion of custom picture framing which is her specialty. Patty, as everyone calls her, has performed many times in PYB's annual production of *The Nutcracker* and several of PYB spring performances.

Sara Massa (Party Guest) is delighted to return to the Ballet Guild's Nutcracker. This marks her eighth year sharing the stage with her daughter Isabella. Sara grew up in Connecticut, where she studied ballet at The Marsha Ismailoff Mark School of Ballet and the Connecticut Ballet Center. She now lives in Bethlehem where she is a full-time mother of four, part-time yoga instructor, and free-time student at the Ballet Guild. Sara is grateful to her husband who helps create time for her to be a part of this production and share the experience with their daughter. She is also thankful for her parents who make that yearly trek down from Connecticut to move in and take over during Nutcracker week. Without them, this would not be possible.

Erin Vavra (*Party Guest*) is a life-long admirer of ballet. She began taking adult ballet classes at the Ballet Guild in 2014 and debuted on stage as a peasant in the Guild's production of *Coppélia* in 2019. She performed in the 2020 virtual production of the Nutcracker and is thrilled to perform live this year. Erin is the owner/director of A Child's Choice Montessori School located in Bethlehem.

Phillip Wallens (*Party Guest*) is back on stage with the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley for his third consecutive performance of *The Nutcracker*. Phillip teaches K-8 general/vocal music at Dover Public Schools in New Jersey. Despite moving to New Jersey more than a year ago, Phillip still returns to Pennsylvania to continue advocating for arts education. He is the President of "The Friends of Music of Bethlehem", a non-profit dedicated to supporting young musicians in the Lehigh Valley since 1928. Phillip has a deep appreciation of the arts and enjoys helping children, teens, and adults discover their own love of the arts as well. He would like to thank the directors, office managers, and other performers, both young and seasoned, for their hard work and dedication to the arts.

Joyce Yoder (Mrs. Stahlbaum) is proud to mark her fourteenth year appearing as Mrs. Stahlbaum. She received her early training with Ballet Theatre of Scranton and studied at the PA Governor's School for the Arts and Pennsylvania Ballet School's summer programs. She is a former professional member of the DanceGing Company, where she danced several original classical and contemporary works and lead roles in their productions of The Nutcracker and The Sleeping Beauty. She has appeared in several featured dance roles with Pennsylvania Youth Theatre, served as choreographer for Trexler Middle School's musical productions, and served as a ballet instructor for Muhlenberg College's Community Dance Center for nine years. Joyce was seen as Arabian and Dew Drop in previous BGLV/PYB productions of The Nutcracker. Joyce remains a lifelong ballet student, presently enrolled in BGLV's adult classes and is honored to serve on their Board of Directors.

Kristopher Yoder (Herr Drosselmeyer) is honored to be appearing in PYB's The Nutcracker once again. He was seen, virtually, in PYB's 2020 Socially Distanced and Virtual Production of The Nutcracker. He was actually seen in person as Dr. Coppelius in Coppelia the previous year as well as in the 50th Anniversary production of The Nutcracker. When he's not showing up late for parties, Kristopher can be found huddled over dusty old tomes at the Trexler Masonic Library, or scratching cats at the Lehigh County Humane Society. He looks forward to continuing his relationship with PYB and the Ballet Guild.

Ballet Mistress

Natalie Hedrick grew up in the Lehigh Valley and has been studying ballet for over 18 years. She started her initial dance training with Miss Tanya in Nazareth, and later studied ballet at The Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under the artistic direction of Karen Knerr. At age 13, Natalie was invited to attend the pre-professional division at The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School of Ballet, with American Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Frano De Vita. There, she had the opportunity to perform with American Ballet Theatre in Alexi Ratmansky's The Nutcracker, at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, as well as in multiple productions with the company at The Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. In 2015, Natalie moved to Boston to train at Boston Ballet School in their pre-professional program, and the following year was promoted to the trainee program under the direction of Margaret Tracey. In 2017 Natalie was accepted into Indiana University's The Jacobs School of Music ballet department. While at Indiana University she was chosen to perform principal and soloist roles in works by George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon, and Twyla Tharp. She also choreographed in various showcases and taught regularly for the Jacobs Academy Pre-College Program. Natalie earned a Bachelor's of Science in Ballet in 2020.

Our Faculty



Meghan McCutcheon began her dance training at Twin Rivers Dance Academy in 1997, under the direction of Kathryn Stout. She continued her passion for dance at Radford University, where she earned a BFA in Dance with a Ballet Concentration. While at Radford, Meghan studied the Vaganova Syllabus under the guidance of Inessa Plekhanova, along with modern dance techniques from Danah Bella, Margaret Devaney, Deborah McLaughlin, and Bob Boross. Meghan

performed in several ballet selections, including Snow and Arabian in *The Nutcracker*, the Pas de Quatre in *La Bayadere*, *Don Quixote*, and *Paquita*. Meghan also established her love of choreography and her work show-cased in student productions. In the fall of 2012, Meghan returned to Easton. She continued teaching ballet under the guidelines of the Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus as an instructor for Twin Rivers Dance

Academy Summer Dance Intensives. Following, she became a permanent instructor, actively contributing to the story ballet choreography. Meghan's choreography premiered at the Easton Riverside Arts Festival, Lehigh Valley DanceExposure Showcase, Ten Tiny Dances, and for Twin Rivers Dance Academy productions. In August of 2019, Meghan received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.



Adriane Orcutt-Fraser, Dance Instructor, hails from a family of teachers and is as passionate about the Art of Teaching as she is about the Art of Dance. Having grown in a family where education was a way of life, as well as being a homeschooling parent, Adriane knows first-hand about the need to balance strict with fun and structure with creativity. Caring about her students' health, well-being, and artistic development is essential to Adriane's teaching style and choreographic goals. Adriane

began her ballet training at Budzynski Studios/Dance Theater of PA. She studied Ballet, Pointe, and Ukrainian Folk dance and was able to perform demi-soloist and soloist roles alongside professional dancers. Adriane was accepted into the school of Philadanco, where she received training in Graham and Horton modern technique from Milton Myers and Pat Thomas, and continued her training in ballet and pointe. Adriane was a scholarship student at BalletMet and Joffrey Ballet School Summer Intensives where she studied with Melinda Baker and Francesca Corkle, among others. As a high senior, Adriane was accepted on scholarship into the BFA dance program of De Sales University. She studied and performed with university seniors and received college credit for her dance courses. Adriane was also invited to train and rehearse with Danco II, Philadanco's Second Company and she was involved in a youth performance group that toured and performed in West Africa. After high school, Adriane attended Fordham University. While studying for an academic degree in Philosophy/ History, and because a dual major in dance was not an option at the university at that time, Adriane studied dance in the Alvin Ailey/Fordham BFA program by audition as a non-major. She was privileged to receive training in ballet, pointe, modern and jazz and perform works from world-renowned teachers and choreographers, including Celia Marino, Denise Vale, Ana Marie Forsythe and Carl Paris. Adriane has taught Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Jazz, Contemporay/Lyrical and Folk Dance in New York, Long Island, and Pennsylvania. She enjoys teaching students of all ages, from toddlers to adults, and is passionate about instilling the love of dance and artistic expression to all dancers, whether recreational students or professionally bound.



Carol Jolley Sarik, Dance Instructor, received her early training at Princeton Ballet under founder Audrey Estey. (She was thrilled to dance the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* for two years as a young student). A graduate of the Walnut Hill School of Performing Arts, she was then accepted into the Banff School of Fine Arts Summer Intensive in Alberta, Canada where she performed in their summer festival production of *Les Sylphides*. Receiving her teacher training from the Royal Ballet

School in London, England, Carol returned to the United States where she opened and operated her own school in Jamesburg, New Jersey for seventeen years. While teaching, Ms. Sarik also danced professionally as a soloist with the Shore Ballet Company, performing such roles as Swanhilda in *Coppélia* and the lead role in *Cinderella*. She danced with the Carolyn Dorfman Company in its early years. She continues to attend teacher training programs such as the Dance Teacher Web Conference in Las Vegas, as well as injury prevention seminars. In 2019, Carolyn received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.



Kelli Yandolino, Dance Instructor; is a Bucks County native and has a BS in Art Education with minors in Dance and Psychology. In 2003, Kelli was certified in the Vaganova Syllabus for Levels 1-3 and 4-6, under Mr. John White, master teacher and founder of Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet. Since then, Kelli has attended the Vaganova teacher training multiple times to better expand her knowledge of the technique. In 2005, while performing professionally with the Spiritoso Ballet

and teaching at the school, Kelli had the opportunity to work in classical, neoclassical and contemporary choreography. Also in 2005, Kelli founded En Arabesque Dancewear, located in Perkasie, PA. En Arabesque has become renowned for exceptional service, selection and has established the reputation as the place to go for expert pointe shoe fittings. Since 2005, Kelli has expanded the business to 3 locations in Bucks County, as well as a mobile pointe shoe fitting business has her traveling throughout the tri-state area. Her business and advice is often featured in the Dance Retailer News Magazine. In 2012, Kelli was one of three retailers in the USA, invited to share her knowledge and experience with the national dance retail community. Also in 2012, Kelli

was anonymously nominated and selected to be part of the of Bucks County *Forty Under 40* for her contribution to the community. In addition to being an educator of the arts and a business owner, in 2006 she established the Pennies for Plies Scholarship Fund. This scholarship was created to provide students in need with financial assistance so that they may continue their dance education and passion for the arts. This past August, Ms. Kelli received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.

Our Staff

Tanja Fetzer Howard, the Ballet Guild's indefatigable Office Manager, is something of a Renaissance woman. She has many interests, and pursues them all with enthusiasm. Among her most favored ways to spend time she counts dance, music, and history of all eras. She had a chance to combine two of these when she assisted prominent dance historian Patricia McAndrew in preparing some translations from the Danish. Tanja goes beyond a purely intellectual appreciation of the arts to performance. She has taken courses in African dance, country line dance, Middle Eastern dance, and tap dancing, as well as African Djembe drumming and frame drumming. In addition to performing with Tahya's percussion group at Mayfair and Musikfest, she has also danced with Star City Tribal and PURE dance troupes. However, none of her interests mean more to her than her two children, Brenna and Drew Howard. Tanja comes to her present job with the Ballet Guild through a long and grueling apprenticeship as a Ballet Mom.

Kristin Dundon, Costume Mistress, is thrilled to return for the 2021 Nutcracker! She has a degree in Theater from DeSales University and has been fortunate to direct and costume children's theater and ballet from North Carolina to the Lehigh Valley for the past 20 years.

The wardrobe room at the Guild brings back fond memories of her childhood ballet classes with Miss Marjorie B. Fink. Her new costume designs for the Ballet Guild's 50th Anniversary of *The Nutcracker* held in 2018 were inspired by the early costumes designed for the Ballet Guild by Mrs. Zimmerman! She has recently started working as a stylist and wardrobe supervisor in the world of film.

Gerry Kasten, Office Assistant, has been a part of The Nutcracker since 1997, when it first moved to the Zoellner Arts Center. First, Gerry was part of the staff who helped to bring PYB's Nutcracker to Zoellner; then she spent approximately ten years as Production Manager, and now is back in the office on Main Street. Currently, Gerry teaches middle school science at St. Anne School in Bethlehem, where she lives with her husband, David and two daughters, Emily and Patrice. Patrice has retired from dancing and is now playing varsity volleyball and is a majorette for Liberty High School. Patrice was born three weeks before tech week of The Nutcracker in 2004 and mom was the stage manager! Emily is a senior nursing major at Rutgers University and made her debut in The Nutcracker in 2006 as an Angel and a Chinese lantern holder. Gerry has a B.F.A in Theatre Arts from Mason Gross School of the Arts-Rutgers University, an M.F.A. in Arts Administration from the University of Illinois, and a M.Ed. from Lehigh University. #ProudPYBfamily!

Patricia McAndrew, Archivist/Historian, is a lifelong resident of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. An Honors in History graduate from Moravian College, she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship as an undergraduate. She lived in Denmark for five years while researching the Royal Danish Ballet Master August Bournonville and his works. Over the years, she has translated a number of Danish dance writings, most recently Erik Ashengreen's landmark biography of the choreographer Harald Lander. Although she is best known for her writings about ballet, Pat has also pursued her interest in Dance in more practical ways: as general manager, production manager, and eventually as a board member of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. She recently retired as Coordinator of Volunteers and Museum Education for Lehigh University Art Galleries



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In Memory of Oleg Briansky







This past July, members of the Ballet Guild family, as well as dance fans throughout the world, were saddened to learn of the passing of our Artistic Director Emeritus Oleg Briansky at age 91. For more than 10 of those years, from 1995 through 2006, Oleg and his wife Mireille Briane, Assistant Artistic Director Emerita, brought to the Lehigh Valley the impeccable credentials of dancers whose careers have included extensive performing, teaching and artistic coaching.

During his years as a *premier danseur*, Oleg Briansky partnered such leading ballerinas as Margot Fonteyn, Maria Tallchief, and Violette Verdy. He was Artistic Director of the Academy Award-nominated feature film *The Children of Theatre* Street, narrated by the late Princess Grace of Monaco. He was also an avid choreographer and deeply interested in ballet history and pedagogy. Oleg and Mireille were the founders and, for 43 years, directors of the renowned Briansky Saratoga Ballet Center summer ballet intensive at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Even after their retirement from the Ballet Guild, the Brianskys continued to take a keen interest in our activities. Anyone lucky enough to have seen Oleg's richly detailed performances as Dr. Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker* will long remember them. His memory will live on through the many students who had the opportunity to study the art of classical ballet with him.









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Props	Peggy Soares, with Heather Gidusko, Kristen Jellison
Load In/Out	Pete Nebzydoski
Cast Party	Lori George
Stage Crew	Brian Miller, Stage Right Deck & Mother Ginger op;
	Katrina Miller, Stage Left Deck; Austin Prusakowski, Stage Crew;
	Trevor Flocco, Stage Crew
Additional Stage Crew	
Truck Driver	Larry Coleman
Zoellner Team	Josh Kovar, Production Manager; Phil Ingle, Audio Coordinator;
	Justin Burns, Lighting Coordinator; Alex Badillo, Flyrail Operator;
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Costumes	Scaramouche Costume Shop (Bob and Mark) – Mother Ginger

Thank you to all whose contributions were received after program deadlines.



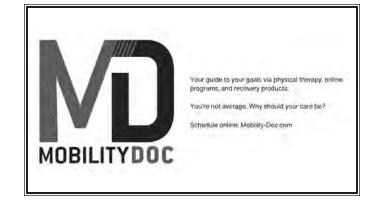






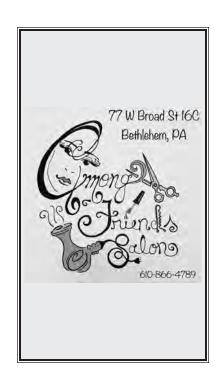














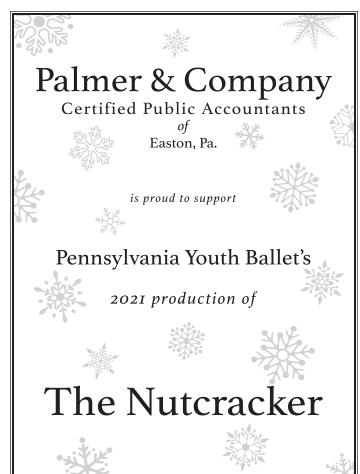




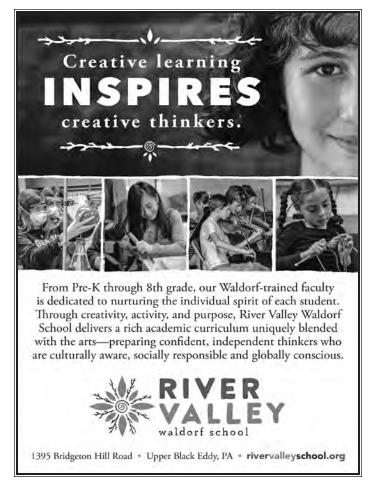


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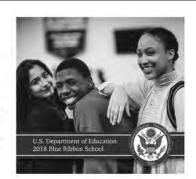


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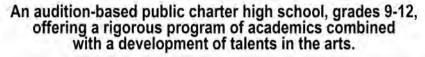


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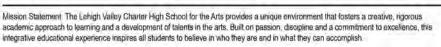




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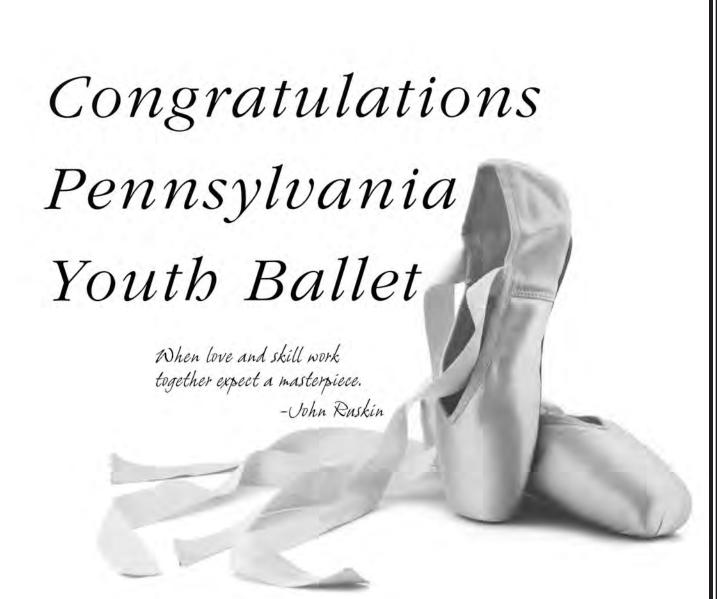
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