

Valley  
**DANCE**  
Theatre

# THE NUTCRACKER 2024

**Fri. December 20 at 7 pm**

Live at

## **The Bankhead**

December 14–22, 2024: eight public performances

### **Artistic Director & Choreographer**

Betsy Hausburg

#### **Assistant Director**

Madison Adkins

#### **Conductor**

Don Adkins

#### **Director Emeritus of the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra**

H. Robert Williams

#### **Scenic Design**

Jim Wright

Jean Francois Revon

#### **Lighting Design**

Harold Waters

#### **Stage Manager**

Greg Adkins

#### **Wardrobe Supervisor**

Christy Ruzicka

#### **Additional Choreography**

Kristin Ellis DelSoldato

Alana Bourguet

Heather Whitley



# The Company

## Principals

**Guest Artists:** Maxwell Simoes and Roberto Vega Ortiz

Alana Bourguet  
Grace Heaney  
Jessica Seu

Audra Edwards  
Rachael Norton  
Avery Steill

Bridget Gervase  
Tatum Ryan  
Alexa Stewart

## Company

Aarul Agarwal  
Camille Grondalski  
Joe Mancini  
Broderick Stuch

Anna Clark  
Alex Foster  
Brayden Metkiff  
Owen Toomey

Harry Dunne  
Helen Lieberman  
Henry Rogers  
Emmie Visaya

## Apprentices

Penelope Bendezu  
Katie Kamena  
Bani Mehta  
Vaishnavi Srinivasan

Grace Harris  
Sonia Lastochkina  
Juniper Merl  
Raquel Toomey

Charlotte Healy  
Maya Louie  
Coraline Moody-Johnson

## Adult Division

Rochelle Abrantes  
Winter Brown  
John Dooley  
Luke Gross  
Margaret Kamena  
Elena Lastochkina  
Jody Reguero

Madison Adkins  
Nigel Clark  
Jennifer Foster  
Bob Heaney  
Todd Kamena  
Peggy McGurk  
Dave Ruzicka

Tyler Aichroth  
Paige Clark  
Mark Gervase  
Liz Heaney  
Susan Kelsey  
Dawnell Moody  
Heather Whitley

# The Story

It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaums' house, and the family is preparing for their annual Christmas party. The children, Clara and Fritz, are excited at the arrival of their friends and family and the grand celebration. A mysterious guest arrives who shocks Fritz, but Clara knows him to be their uncle Herr Drosselmeyer the toy maker who presents Clara with the best gift of all, the Nutcracker. Fritz grows jealous, snatches the Nutcracker from Clara, and breaks it. Clara is upset, but Herr Drosselmeyer magically repairs her treasured gift. The party picks up with dancing and celebration. As the evening grows late and the children get sleepy, the guests thank the Stahlbaums and bid farewell. Once the family is in bed, Clara sneaks downstairs to check on her Nutcracker and ends up falling asleep under the Christmas tree.

At the stroke of midnight Clara wakes up to find the Christmas tree and toys growing larger as she seems to be shrinking! Suddenly she is surrounded by an army of mice led by the Mouse King. The Nutcracker commands a group of toy soldiers into battle with the mice. The Mouse King traps the Nutcracker, but Clara comes to his rescue. She throws her slipper and hits the Mouse King in the head, allowing the Nutcracker to defeat the Mouse King. The victorious Nutcracker becomes a prince who takes Clara on a magical journey to the Land of Snow. They are welcomed by the Snow Queen, and as the snow continues to fall, snowflakes begin to dance.

Clara continues on her journey and is met by angels who escort her to the Kingdom of the Sweets. There she is greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, who hears Clara's story of the Prince's battle with the Mouse King and of her own bravery. The Sugar Plum Fairy rewards her with a celebration of dances of beautiful flowers and every imaginable treat. The festival concludes when everyone comes together to bid Clara farewell.

*synopsis by Heidi Massie*

# The Nutcracker

*Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky*

**Friday, December 20, 2024, 7 pm**

*(cast members are listed in order of appearance)*

## Pre-Show Carols by AllSorts

### Act I

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Family #1</b>         | Margaret Kamena<br>& Todd Kamena<br>Coraline Moody-Johnson<br>Noah Estep           |
| <b>Teenage Girl</b>      | Elizabeth Monteith   |
| <b>Teenage Boy</b>       | Owen Toomey  |
| <b>Family #2</b>         | Madison Adkins<br>& Luke Gross<br>Matilda Moody-Johnson<br>Bani Mehta<br>Jay Clark |
| <b>Teenage Boy</b>       | Henry Rogers   |
| <b>Grandmama</b>         | Susan Kelsey   |
| <b>Grandpapa</b>         | Dave Ruzicka   |
| <b>Family #3</b>         | Liz Heaney<br>& Anik Mehta<br>Sophie Suttora<br>Carson Tibbens<br>Andre Williams   |
| <b>Teenage Girl</b>      | Vaishnavi Srinivasan   |
| <b>Family #4</b>         | Heather Whitley<br>& Bob Heaney<br>Penelope Bendezu<br>Leo Gulec<br>Elijah Estep   |
| <b>Dr. Stahlbaum</b>     | Tyler Aichroth   |
| <b>Mrs. Stahlbaum</b>    | Paige Clark  |
| <b>Clara</b>             | Maya Louie   |
| <b>Fritz</b>             | Frankie Peppel   |
| <b>The Maid</b>          | Grace Heaney   |
| <b>The Butler</b>        | Alex Foster  |
| <b>Herr Drosselmeyer</b> | Mark Gervase   |
| <b>Steam Punk Niece</b>  | Gigi Gervase   |
| <b>Harlequin Dolls</b>   | <i>Floppy</i> Amaris Clark<br><i>En Pointe</i> Bridget Gervase                     |
| <b>Soldier Doll</b>      | Emmie Visaya   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Mice</b>       | Sofia Gonzalez<br>Daphne Eddy<br>Mila Rogers<br>Delia Stark<br>Ardis D'Acquisto<br>Harley Berry Polash<br>Pierce Peppel |
| <b>Nutcracker</b> | Brayden Metkiff   |
| <b>Mouse King</b> | Alexa Metkiff   |
| <b>Soldiers</b>   | Ellery Thissen <br>Charlotte Stark<br>Ariana Williams<br>Alexis Agamir<br>Mackenzie Mindoro<br>Everly Peppel            |

## Land of Snow

*Backdrops made possible by a generous donation from the Memula Family*

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Snow Queen</b>    | Jessica Seu  |
| <b>Snow King</b>     | Maxwell Simoes   |
| <b>Demi-Soloists</b> | Tatum Ryan<br>Rachael Norton   |
| <b>Corps</b>         | Grace Harris<br>Charlotte Healy<br>Sonia Lastochkina<br>Helen Lieberman<br>Anna Clark<br>Raquel Toomey |

## Intermission

## Act II

### Kingdom of the Sweets

*Backdrops made possible by a generous donation from the Memula Family*

*Halos design and creation by Cynthia Lagodzinski*

*Mini candy cane costume by Tanya Estep*

*Angels and Chinese Tea choreography by Alana Bourguet*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Angels</b>      | Kyla Uchytel<br>Zoe Rowell<br>Zoe Guajardo<br>Islay Guajardo<br>Ellabeth Fratanduono<br>Violet Guistino<br>Ines Hering<br>Matilda Moody-Johnson |
| <b>Gold Fairy</b>  | Sonia Lastochkina   |
|                    | <i>Escort</i> Broderick Stuch   |
| <b>Clara</b>       | Maya Louie  |
| <b>Handmaidens</b> | Grace Harris<br>Vaishnavi Srinivasan<br>Juniper Merl<br>Katie Kamena<br>Bani Mehta<br>Riya Penmethsa  |
|                    | <i>Mini Handmaidens</i> Tallula Banks<br>Marlena Adkins   |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Sugar Plum Fairy</b>  | Alana Bourguet   |
| <b>Spanish Chocolate</b> | Raquel Toomey &<br>Aarul Agarwal   |
|                          | <i>Mini Spanish</i> Harley Berry Polash  |
| <b>Arabian Coffee</b>    | Audra Edwards<br>Joe Mancini   |
|                          | <i>Mini Arabian</i> Isabelle Whisman   |
| <b>Ribbon Candy</b>      | <i>Soloist</i> Rachael Norton<br><i>Demi-Soloists</i> Katie Kamena<br>Emmie Visaya           |
|                          | <i>Mini Candy Cane</i> Josie Jones   |
| <b>Chinese Tea</b>       | <i>Soloist</i> Elizabeth Inouye<br><i>Demi-Soloists</i> Penelope Bendezu &<br>Riya Penmethsa |
|                          | <i>Mini Chinese</i> Niamh Fratanduono  |
| <b>Russian Cake</b>      | Tatum Ryan<br>Avery Steill<br>Kegan Bourguet   |

## **Mother Gigogne and Her Little Buds**

*Choreography by Heather Whitley*

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Mother Gigogne</b> | Heather Whitley  |
| <b>Father Gigogne</b> | Elizabeth Foster   |
| <b>Rosebuds</b>       | Sofia Gonzalez<br>Mila Rogers<br>Isla Whisman<br>Lily Gross<br>Maiselle Adkins |
| <b>Rosehips</b>       | Pierce Peppel<br>Andre Williams  |

## **Waltz of the Flowers**

*Floral accessories by Angela Piazza*

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Queen</b>   | Grace Heaney  |
| <b>Flowers</b> | <i>Green</i> Charlotte Healy &<br>Katie Kamena      |
|                | <i>Pink</i> Camille Grondalski &<br>Bridget Gervase |
|                | <i>Blue</i> Anna Clark &<br>Raquel Toomey           |
|                | <i>Orange</i> Rachael Norton &<br>Grace Harris      |
|                | <i>Lilac</i> Sonia Lastochkina &<br>Helen Lieberman |

## **Nutcracker Pas de Deux**

*Choreography by Lev Ivanov*  
*New choreography and restaging by Betsy Hausburg*

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sugar Plum Fairy</b> | Alana Bourguet     |
| <b>Cavalier</b>         | Roberto Vega Ortiz |

### **Finale**

Entire Ensemble

## Dance Instructors

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director*

Madison Adkins—*Assistant Director*

|               |                |                          |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Virgil Angulo | Alana Bourguet | Kristin Ellis Delsoldato |
| Audra Edwards | Grace Heaney   | Sarah Loza               |
| Meera Memula  | Genoa Sperske  |                          |

## Betsy Hausburg—Director

Upon graduating cum laude with a BA in Dance from Butler University, Betsy Hausburg got her first professional job as soloist with the Syracuse Ballet Theatre. A year later, she took a job as costumer for the Hartford Ballet Company. When directorship of the company changed, she was rehired as company member and dean of students in charge of the two-year teacher training program. Betsy married and moved to California several years later. She founded the East Bay Ballet Theatre in Albany, California, and then went on to teach for Miss Penny's in Castro Valley. There she and Penny Tomasello founded the Valley Dance Theatre in 1980. Along with directing and teaching for the Valley Dance Theatre, Betsy is the choreographer for all Livermore High School musicals and the tuba player for the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

## Don Adkins—Conductor

Dr. Don Adkins has taught music in the Santa Cruz area, primarily at Cabrillo College, for more than 35 years. He has music degrees from Western Oregon State College in music education, the University of Idaho in composition, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City in orchestral conducting. Don has taught for both public schools and organizations such as the Cabrillo Youth Strings. He conducts the Cabrillo College Community Orchestra and Livermore-Amador Symphony's summer youth orchestra, performs as a piano accompanist, music directs for musical theater, and is the music director at his church.

## AllSorts—Singers

AllSorts is a quartet of singers from the San Francisco South and East Bay Areas who have over 90 years of singing experience among the group. They have been singing together as a quartet for more than two years and have a rich supply of great tunes in their quartet treasury. AllSorts—Maggie, Susan, Harriett and Voula—asks you to join them “on a ride that they hope will entertain and take you on a journey of the heart.”

## Maxwell Simoes—Guest Artist

Maxwell Simoes grew up in Philadelphia, PA, where he attended the Creative and Performing Arts High School and trained with Olga Kresin and Lev Assualyak. He was awarded gold at the Tanzolymp international dance festival in Berlin and was a finalist in the New York City competition for Youth America Grand Prix. Following this success, he studied at the Rudra Béjart École in Switzerland as a student of Azari Plissetski. This in turn led to performing with the Béjart Ballet in pieces choreographed by Maurice Béjart, including Bolero, *Le Sacre du Printemps*, and *Petruschka*. Maxwell has also performed with the Metropolitan Opera, The San Francisco Opera, Smuin Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and Sadler's Wells in London. Now Maxwell dances with Jacob Jonas The Company in Santa Monica, where he performed in a recent Sia music video. Along with freelance projects and teaching, he has performed for fashion brands such as Hermès, Prada, and Greg Lauren.

## Roberto Vega Ortiz—Guest Artist

Roberto Vega Ortiz began his dance training at Taller de Bailes LeDaph at age 14. He also studied at Escuela de Ballets de San Juan, Conservatorio de Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, and Escuela Especializada en Ballet Julián E. Blanco, all in his native Puerto Rico. He took summer courses at, for example, the Joffrey Ballet School and San Francisco Ballet School. In 2015, he studied at the Miami City Ballet School, and in 2016 he joined the Nashville Ballet. In 2017, he joined Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and toured internationally, performing female soloist and principal roles on pointe. A guest dancer with various companies, Roberto was also a cast member of *The Phantom of the Opera* in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He joined Diablo Ballet in 2019 and is the co-founder, artistic director, and artist of Ballet22.

# Board of Directors 2024–2025

Jennifer Foster—*President*

Rochelle Abrantes—*Secretary*

Sandi Becker

Tory Bettencourt

Liz Heaney

Margaret Kamena

Lesli Norton

Alex Foster

Elizabeth Foster

Grace Heaney

Emmie Visaya—*Student Liaisons*

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director (ex officio)*

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## Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra

### Conductor

Don Adkins

### Violin 1

Juliana Zolynas

*Concertmaster*

Norman Back

Maya Balachandran

Feliza Bourguet

Ethan Ha

Jackie Maruskin

Miwa Myers

Doug Morrison

Miki Nakamura

Michael Peach

### Violin 2

Eugene Baker

Emily Bang

Jeana Ernst

Jacqueline McBride

Johan Qin

Anthony Westrope

### Viola

Dana Anex

Isadore Banyai

Judy Beck

Alex Lee

Nicole Targosz

Brandon Tran

Fernanda Van Atta

### Cello

Claire Armstrong

Nita Cooley

Richard Hibbs

Chris Jackson

Sharon Schumacher

### String Bass

Richard Hibbs

Navaz Jasavala

### Flute

Jenny Becker

Marianne Beeler

Myra Downs

Catherine Jennings

Stacie Manuel

Kaitlyn McCain

Sara Stafford

Jack Stanley

Beth Wilson

### Oboe /

**English Horn**

Melinda Jacobsen

Amy Kahn

Ron Kerst

Eva Langfeldt

Jeff Lenigan

Tim Meals

Rijuta Vallishayee

Robert Wakefield-Carl

### Clarinet

Kathy Boster

Barbara Denny

Christy Diggins

Ronald Kerst

Kay Leong

Robert Mayfield

Danielle Napoleon

Cyndy Salmon

Lynne Schonder

Jack Stanley

### Bassoon

Katie Brunner

George Pascoe

Doug Stark

BriAnna Webb

### Horn

Alexandra Baumgart

Jim Hartman

Yemia Hashimoto

Roger Henderson

Mika Imakawa

Lois Van Buren

Bryan Waugh

### Trumpet

Steve Azevedo

Ric Beeler

Bob Bryant

John Escalara

Rick Fleer

Melody Minto

### Trombone

Trombones

Andwar Johnson

Forrest Jones

Bill McIntyre

Tom Munns

Diane Schildbach

Alice Williams

### Tuba

Earl Pitman

Marcus Schildbach

### Harp

Samantha Mulgrew

### Keyboard

Angela Bu

Iha Vijja

### Timpani

Lee Carpenter

Kate Mangotich

April Nissen

Casey Tomkins

### Percussion

John Hughes

Phil Kerr

*list includes players from all performances*

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## Spring REP 2025    May 24 at 7 pm and May 25 at 2 pm

Next spring, Valley Dance Theatre will present ballet performances featuring our many new male dancers. With eight young men joining in, *Chaconne*, with music by Vitali, is a vibrant tour de force with five couples and live music on-stage. Additional pieces include Acts II and III from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and excerpts from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi. Live music is provided by the Valley Dance Theatre pit orchestra.

# Friends of the Ballet

## Directors

The Memula Family

## Platinum Angels

The Clark Family  
Margaret and Todd Kamena  
The Mehta Family  
Mary Sibayan  
Heather Whitley

## Virtuosos

The Ruzicka Family  
The Singhal Family

## Choreographers

Sandi Becker  
The Bourguet Family  
Jennifer, Katherine,  
Elizabeth, and Alex Foster

## Corps

The Dunne Family  
Michaela Kashgarian  
Jean King  
The Little & Brave Boutique  
Peggy McGurk

## Apprentices

Kathy and Dan Crawford  
The Inouye Family  
The Norton Family  
Leah Rohm  
The Wilson Family  
**Contributors**  
The Jones Family  
The Louie Family  
The Penmethsa Family

## Kristin Reams Bettencourt

## Memorial Scholarship Program

Dawnell Moody  
Christopher McLean

## Matching Grants

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Flower bouquets provided by  
Livermore Valley Florist

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Directors       | \$5,000+    |
| Platinum Angels | \$1,000+    |
| Virtuosos       | \$500–\$999 |
| Choreographers  | \$250–\$499 |
| Corps           | \$100–\$249 |
| Apprentices     | \$50–\$99   |
| Contributors    | \$25–\$49   |

**Your tax-deductible contribution  
would be much appreciated.**



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Valley Dance Theatre

Mail to Valley Dance Theatre  
2247-B Second Street  
Livermore, CA 94550

Note: If you would like your donation used to support the  
Kristin Reams Bettencourt Memorial Scholarship program,  
please make your check payable to VDT Scholarship Fund.

Valley Dance Theatre is the Tri-Valley's premier ballet company and is celebrating its 44th season during 2024–2025. Its professionally staged production of *The Nutcracker* is one of the largest productions of this ballet in the Bay Area.

Valley Dance Theatre's affiliated school offers classes in classical ballet for boys and girls ages 3 and up as well as adults.

For more information on our Company or ballet classes:

925-243-0925

[valleydancetheatre.com](http://valleydancetheatre.com)

