

Valley
DANCE
Theatre

THE NUTCRACKER 2024

Sun. December 22 at 2 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

Sunday, December 22, 2024, 2 pm

(cast members are listed in order of appearance)

Pre-Show Carolers from St. Michael's Latin Choir

Act I

Family #1	Margaret Kamena & Mark Gervase Coraline Moody-Johnson Noah Estep
Teenage Girl	Elizabeth Monteith
Teenage Boy	Owen Toomey
Family #2	Elena Lastochkina & Luke Gross Matilda Moody-Johnson Bani Mehta Jay Clark
Teenage Boy	Henry Rogers
Grandmama	Peggy McGurk
Grandpapa	John Dooley
Family #3	Liz Heaney & Anik Mehta Sophie Suttora Ian Keiffer Andre Williams
Teenage Girl	Vaishnavi Srinivasan
Family #4	Heather Whitley & Bob Heaney Penelope Bendezu Leo Gulac Elijah Estep
Dr. Stahlbaum	Tyler Aichroth
Mrs. Stahlbaum	Madison Adkins
Clara	Katie Kamena
Fritz	Frankie Peppel
The Maid	Grace Heaney
The Butler	Broderick Stuch
Herr Drosselmeyer	Todd Kamena
Steam Punk Niece	Grace Harris
Harlequin Dolls	<i>Floppy</i> Amaris Clark <i>En Pointe</i> Rachael Norton
Soldier Doll	Emmie Visaya

Mice
Sofia Gonzalez
Daphne Eddy
Mila Rogers
Delia Stark
Nora Bendezu
Harley Berry Polash
Pierce Peppel

Nutcracker
Alex Foster

Mouse King
Elizabeth Foster

Soldiers
Ellery Thissen
Charlotte Stark
Ariana Williams
Alexis Agamir
Mackenzie Mindoro
Everly Peppel

Land of Snow

*Backdrops made possible by a generous donation from the Memula Family
Singers from St. Michael's Latin Choir*

Snow Queen
Bridget Gervase

Demi-Soloists
Tatum Ryan
Rachael Norton

Corps
Grace Harris
Charlotte Healy
Sonia Lastochkina
Helen Lieberman
Anna Clark
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*

Angels
Kyla Uchytel
Zoe Rowell
Zoe Guajardo
Islay Guajardo
Ellabeth Fratanduono
Violet Guistino
Ines Hering
Matilda Moody-Johnson

Gold Fairy
Sonia Lastochkina
Escort Broderick Stuch

Clara
Katie Kamena

Handmaidens
Grace Harris
Vaishnavi Srinivasan
Juniper Merl
Brielle Pedroni
Bani Mehta
Maya Louie
Mini Handmaidens
Tallula Banks
Marlena Adkins

Sugar Plum Fairy
Alana Bourguet

Spanish Chocolate	Tatum Ryan & Owen Toomey
	<i>Mini Spanish</i> Harley Berry Polash
Arabian Coffee	Helen Lieberman Aarul Agarwal
	<i>Mini Arabian</i> Isabelle Whisman
Ribbon Candy	<i>Soloist</i> Bridget Gervase <i>Demi-Soloists</i> Charlotte Healy Grace Harris
	<i>Mini Candy Cane</i> Olivia DiGioia
Chinese Tea	<i>Soloist</i> Eizabeth Inouye <i>Demi-Soloists</i> Penelope Bendezu & Riya Penmethsa
	<i>Mini Chinese</i> Niamh Fratanduono
Russian Cake	Emmie Visaya Anna Clark Grace Heaney

Mother Gigogne and Her Little Buds

Choreography by Heather Whitley

Mother Gigogne	Jennifer Foster
Father Gigogne	Elizabeth Foster
Rosebuds	Sofia Gonzalez Mila Rogers Isla Whisman Lily Gross Quinley Visaya
Rosehips	Pierce Peppel Andre Williams

Waltz of the Flowers

Floral accessories by Angela Piazza

Queen	Rachael Norton
Flowers	<i>Green</i> Charlotte Healy & Maya Louie
	<i>Pink</i> Camille Grondalski & Bridget Gervase
	<i>Blue</i> Alexa Stewart & Grace Heaney
	<i>Orange</i> Vaishnavi Srinivasan & Grace Harris
	<i>Lilac</i> Sonia Lastochkina & Helen Lieberman

Nutcracker Pas de Deux

Choreography by Lev Ivanov
New choreography and restaging by Betsy Hausburg

Sugar Plum Fairy	Alana Bourguet
Cavalier	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.

St. Michael's Latin Choir—Singers

The Latin choir is from St Michael Catholic Church in Livermore. The choir sings every Sunday at 8am Mass and at other special Latin Masses throughout the year. We are a volunteer choir of all ages. Our repertoire includes traditional sacred music composed at any time during the last two thousand twenty-four years. We are very happy to sing for you all at *The Nutcracker* this year!

Maxwell Simoes—Guest Artist (*not appearing in this performance*)

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 *Petrushka*. 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*

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Margaret Kamena

Lesli Norton

Alex Foster

Elizabeth Foster

Grace Heaney

Emmie Visaya—*Student Liaisons*

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director (ex officio)*

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

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Fernanda Van Atta

Cello

Claire Armstrong

Nita Cooley

Richard Hibbs

Chris Jackson

Sharon Schumacher

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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

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.

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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.**



Please donate using the code at left or by check.

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Valley Dance Theatre

Mail to Valley Dance Theatre
2247-B Second Street
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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

