

Valley
DANCE
Theatre

THE NUTCRACKER 2024

Sat. December 21 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

Saturday, December 21, 2024, 7 pm

(cast members are listed in order of appearance)

Pre-Show Carolers from Harmony Fusion Chorus

Act I

Family #1	Dawnell Moody & Todd Kamena 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	Susan Kelsey
Grandpapa	Dave Ruzicka
Family #3	Liz Heaney & Anik Mehta Sophie Suttora Carson Tibbens Andre Williams
Teenage Girl	Vaishnavi Srinivasan
Family #4	Jennifer Foster & Bob Heaney Penelope Bendezu Leo Gulac Elijah Estep
Dr. Stahlbaum	Nigel Clark
Mrs. Stahlbaum	Paige Clark
Clara	Amaris Clark
Fritz	Frankie Peppel
The Maid	Grace Heaney
The Butler	Alex Foster
Herr Drosselmeyer	Mark Gervase
Steam Punk Niece	Gigi Gervase
Harlequin Dolls	<i>Floppy</i> Charlotte Healy <i>En Pointe</i> Katie Kamena
Soldier Doll	Raquel Toomey

Mice	Sofia Gonzalez Daphne Eddy Mila Rogers Delia Stark Nora Bendezu Harley Berry Polash Pierce Peppel
Nutcracker	Brayden Metkiff
Mouse King	Alexa Metkiff
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 Harmony Fusion Chorus*

Snow Queen	Bridget Gervase
Demi-Soloists	Tatum Ryan Rachael Norton
Corps	Grace Harris Charlotte Healy Sonia Lastochkina Helen Lieberman Anna Clark Alexa Stewart

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
	<i>Escort</i> Broderick Stuch
Clara	Amaris Clark
Handmaidens	Grace Harris Vaishnavi Srinivasan Juniper Merl Katie Kamena Bani Mehta Maya Louie
	<i>Mini Handmaidens</i> Tallula Banks Marlena Adkins
Sugar Plum Fairy	Alexa Stewart

Spanish Chocolate		Raquel Toomey & Aarul Agarwal
	<i>Mini Spanish</i>	Harley Berry Polash
Arabian Coffee		Jessica Seu Roberto Vega Ortiz
	<i>Mini Arabian</i>	Isabelle Whisman
Ribbon Candy	<i>Soloist</i>	Rachael Norton
	<i>Demi-Soloists</i>	Camille Grondalski Emmie Visaya
	<i>Mini Candy Cane</i>	Olivia DiGioia
Chinese Tea	<i>Soloist</i>	Charlotte Healy
	<i>Demi-Soloists</i>	Juniper Merl & Bani Mehta
	<i>Mini Chinese</i>	Niamh Fratanduono
Russian Cake		Tatum Ryan Avery Steill Kegan Bourguet

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 Maiselle Adkins
Rosehips	Pierce Peppel Andre Williams

Waltz of the Flowers

Floral accessories by Angela Piazza

Queen	Grace Heaney
Flowers	<i>Green</i> Charlotte Healy & Katie Kamena
	<i>Pink</i> Alana Bourguet & Bridget Gervase
	<i>Blue</i> Anna Clark & Raquel Toomey
	<i>Orange</i> Rachael Norton & 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	Alexa Stewart
Cavalier	Alex Foster

Finale

Entire Ensemble

Dance Instructors

Betsy Hausburg—*Artistic Director*

Virgil Angulo

Audra Edwards

Meera Memula

Alana Bourguet

Grace Heaney

Genoa Sperske

Madison Adkins—*Assistant Director*

Kristin Ellis Delsoldato

Sarah Loza

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.

Harmony Fusion Chorus—Singers

Harmony Fusion, an all-women's chorus, is committed to musical excellence and education, enthusiastically sharing the joy of singing four-part, *a cappella* harmony in the barbershop style. Members pride themselves on community involvement and strive for innovative entertainment and diversity in their membership. Harmony Fusion is proud to be a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, performances, and competitions. Harmony Fusion has won multiple awards in their SAI regional contests, including first place in their division in 2010. More information about Harmony Fusion is available at www.harmonyfusion.org.

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 Assulyak. 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*

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Lesli Norton

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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

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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

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

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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.**



Please donate using the code at left or by check.

Make checks payable to
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

