



41th annual production  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CHRISTINA WILDER



# *Vancouver Dance*

T H E A T R E

December 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2023

[VANCOUVERDANCETHEATRE.COM](http://VANCOUVERDANCETHEATRE.COM)

# we're so glad you're here

Over the last 47 years Vancouver Dance Theatre has been enchanting audiences with its whimsical productions, allowing thousands of dancers the opportunity to perform and share their enthusiasm and talents with our local community. We strive to incorporate local artists in all aspects of production including music, art, dance, drama, and technical fields. We provide local youth and volunteers with activities that encourage physical well-being, confidence and teamwork while creating memories to cherish for years to come. This production would not be possible without an incredible amount of help and talent provided by numerous people. First, we would like to extend our gratitude to Christina Wilder, our Director, for her expert direction and exquisite choreography. She has shown grace and leadership which she instills in our dancers while encouraging all of us to put forth our very best. Second, we give our sincere thank you to the Vancouver Dance Theatre Board of Directors for the numerous hours and hard work spent all year long planning and preparing for our show. Third, we recognize our dancers for their commitment to excellence in the performance arts and their parents and families for time spent helping all season long preparing for our production. Lastly, an immense, heartfelt appreciation is extended to you, our community! Thank you to the countless individuals and businesses who support Vancouver Dance Theatre with their gifts of time, resources, and monetary contributions. If you would like to join these wonderful patrons of the arts in supporting Vancouver Dance Theatre, we encourage you to join the Pointe Society. Your tax-deductible gift will assist us in continuing our time-honored production of the Nutcracker and provide continued opportunities for our local performers. For more information see our pointe society information in this program.

Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the magic of The Nutcracker!

Sincerely,  
Erika Beyer  
President, Vancouver Dance Theatre

For the safety of our dancers and the enjoyment of the audience members, **please observe the following:**



- **Turn off or silence** your cell phone
- **No texting or calls** during the performance
- **No flash photography** or cameras with screens



*Thank you—Enjoy the Show!*

VDT presents The Nutcracker  
1-3 DECEMBER 2023 • FORT VANCOUVER HIGH SCHOOL

welcome

we're all in this together

Thank you for supporting  
Vancouver Dance Theatre

Check out these amazing opportunities in the lobby!

**Sugar Plum Corner**

Tiaras | Bun Crowns | Character Ornaments  
VDT Stickers | VDT Apparel | Nutcrackers (various sizes)

**Flowers**

One rose—\$4

One rose with Nutcracker ornament—\$6

**Concessions**

Snacks \$1 —Cash Preferred

**Silent Auction**

A list explaining the contents of each basket as well as instructions stating the minimum starting bid, bidding increment requirements for each item, and space for individual bids to be written out are included.

If bidding, please meet at the Silent Auction table after the performance to see if your bid won and to pay for your prize.

Please come browse this year's Silent Auction and join in the fundraising fun today!

**Become a Pointe Society Member**

Vancouver Dance Theatre is a non-profit, volunteer driven production company that offers an opportunity for young dancers to perform in a pre-professional atmosphere.

It is our goal to:

- Create performance opportunities for dancers from all local studios.
- Provide local youth with activities that will build confidence, teach the importance of teamwork, and create lasting memories.
- Use professional dancers and choreographers in the training and instruction of our participants.
- Promote cultural enrichment in our community by producing affordable, quality performances that will appeal to audience members of all ages.

As a member of our local community, we invite you to become a part of this cultural endeavor. Your financial contribution will provide continued opportunities for Vancouver/Portland area dancers. One hundred percent of your generous gift directly supports VDT and is tax deductible. For more information, visit our

[Point Society Donation Page](#)

together is better

### *Executive Board Members*

Erika Beyer, President  
Jennifer Sawyer, Vice President  
Amanda Pemberton, Treasurer  
Crista Hendrickson, Secretary

### *Board Members*

Amanda Penberton, Laurilee & Travis Anderberg, Melissa Parnell,  
Jenn Thelen, Trevor McDonald, Jim Bergren, Kristin Nold

### *Participating Dance Studios*

Academy of Ballet Arts | Cottage Dance Academy  
Dance Evolution | Dance Fusion NW | Evergreen Dance Academy  
Jennifer Santos Academy of Dance | The Joy of Dance | Daley Dance Academy  
Claudette Walker School of Dance

### *Community Contributors:*

Fred Meyer | Amazon Smile

### *Videography*

Produced by Dream Capture Media

### *Photography*

Robert Holcomb



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about us

# lights, camera, action



*Artistic Director  
Christina Wilder*

Christina was born in Portland and raised in the local Vancouver area where she got her start in ballet from the Academy of Ballet Arts under the direction of Noreen Kendall. From age nine to 14, she studied Tap, Ballet, Jazz and Character. During her middle school years, Christina participated in the Vancouver Dance Theater's Nutcracker and spring shows. She attended dance camp in Walla Walla and in New York. Because of her desire to advance in the Royal Academy of Dancing syllabus, Christina joined June Taylor's School of Dance in Tigard, Oregon where she completed her Intermediate Royal Academy of Dancing examination under Tami Walker. As she prepared for her Advanced examination, Christina was in a car accident, ending any future training. With years of teaching assisting under her belt, an opportunity to teach ballet was presented. Enjoying working with dancers, Christina entered into the three-year Royal Academy of Dancing teachers training program at age 18. She traveled the US, Canada and England training with examiners from all over the world. At age 19 Christina took over Academy of Ballet Arts from her former teacher and has been running classes ever since. Christina has also trained and/or taken classes in: Pilates, child development, anatomy, early childhood dance, dance history, injury prevention classes, Vaganova syllabus, Cecchetti syllabus and dance as worship. Over the course of 30 years of teaching, students under Christina's training have gone on to have full scholarships to dance camps, colleges, professional careers and have become teachers. Christina currently lives in her home town with her husband, Aaron and three children, Emmaline, Eli and Olivia.



*Assistant Artistic Director  
Jessica Barnes*

Jessica is returning to Vancouver Dance Theatre this season as Assistant Director. She began dancing with Annie Knoedler at age three and studied with Christina Wilder at Academy of Ballet Arts from fifth grade through the end of high school. She was part of VDT's Nutcracker productions from 2014 to 2018 and loved dancing a variety of roles here on this stage. She graduated with a degree in Kinesiology from Corban University in 2022 and is now a personal trainer at a senior living facility. Jessica has enjoyed being part of the Nutcracker again this year alongside her friend and mentor Christina and the amazing team at Vancouver Dance Theatre.

# under the spotlight

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Soloists

## Emma Hagedorn



I am 16 years old and a sophomore at CAM Academy. I have been dancing with Joy of Dance since I was three years old and have been doing ballet for more than 13 years. This is my second year performing in VDT's Nutcracker and I am honored to dance the roles of Snow Queen and Flower Trio. In the past, I have danced as Clara and a flower. In my free time, I enjoy reading, learning, and spending time with friends and family. I would like to thank my parents for their support and encouragement, my dance teachers for getting me where I am today, and God for his constant and unconditional love.

## Rose Knoedler



I am a 16-year-old junior that attends school at Anchored F.L. I Love dancing everywhere and have gotten strange looks while doing the splits in grocery aisles and leaping through the airport. I have been trained at Joy Of Dance. This is my 15th year dancing and my 6th year with VDT! This year I will perform as Snow and Sugar Plum. I also like to travel, talk with my friends, go on daring adventures, and swim. Thank you to my virtuous mom, electrifying teachers, and of course, I thank the Lord for always being with me.

## Jim Bergren



This is my 16th season performing with VDT. This year I will be playing the role of Uncle Herr Drosselmeyer in The Nutcracker. In previous years, I have played the roles of Mother Ginger and Grandpa. Aside from VDT, I have performed with Journey Theatre Arts and local theatres. I enjoy studying music with The Royal Conservatory, spending time in outdoor recreational activities, and most importantly, serving God in my personal life and through work. I am very blessed to be with the VDT Family learning from our artistic directors, to watching the cast members shine on stage and working behind the scenes serving on the board of directors with amazing talented board members. Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord Always!

## Jacoby Thompson



I am 19 years old and have been Homeschooled all my life until recently graduating this summer. I have been dancing with Gallery Ballet and Tap for eight years now, and started teaching their Boys Movement class this past year. I am currently discerning both Religious Life and Priesthood in response to Jesus asking me to follow after Him. I'm honored to be dancing the roles of Snow King and Cavalier in VDT 2023 Nutcracker.

# under the spotlight

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## Chelsea Beyer

I am 16 years old and a junior at Clark College through the Running Start program. I have been performing in *The Nutcracker* with VDT for the past 9 years. I have played many roles in the past with my first being a Mouse and a Mother G. This year I have the pleasure of dancing in the roles of Flower Trio and Snow Queen. My favorite things outside of dancing are sewing and being with my cats. I would like to thank my friends, family, and numerous instructors through the years who have helped me in pursuing my passion and love for dance.



## Esther Youm

I am a 14-year-old freshman at River HomeLink. I have been dancing for seven years at Joy of Dance, and this is my first year with VDT. This year, I will be participating in the role of Clara and as a part of the Flower Trio. Besides dance, I take delight in playing the piano, reading (particularly Jane Austen books) and studying. I want to thank my wonderful family, the lovely teachers at Joy of Dance, and everyone who has made these performances possible. Thank you, and enjoy the show!



## Jade Dong

I'm 17 years old and a senior at River Homelink. I attend The Joy of Dance and have been dancing for 8 years. In my free time I enjoy doing anything creative like painting, fashion designing, floral arranging, or writing. I love being with friends and spending time in God's beautiful creation. I want to thank all my ballet teachers for investing their time and energy into instructing me and for encouraging me to challenge myself. I am so grateful for my parents who support me in my pursuit of dance and my mom for being so involved. Most of all I thank God for giving me the ability to dance, giving me purpose and Joy, and strength to continue in ballet even when it's difficult.

# Soloists



# under the spotlight

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## Myah Hendrickson

I am a 15 year old sophomore at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. I have been dancing since I was five and this is my 9th year performing in VDT's Nutcracker! This year, I am excited to be performing as The Dew Drop Fairy and Snow! Other than dancing I enjoy reading, writing, playing the flute, spending time with my family, friends, and my cats. I would love to thank my friends and family for their constant support, my incredible instructor Christina Wilder, and everyone who has worked so hard to put on this show!



## Jasmine Dong

I am a 16-year-old sophomore at CAM Academy. I have been dancing for almost eight years at The Joy of Dance. This is my 2nd Nutcracker performance with VDT and I'm excited to be dancing as Clara and Flower Trio! In my free time, I like to read, listen to music, and hang out/watch movies with my family and friends. I would like to thank my parents for all the support and rides they have given me over the years, my ballet teachers who have taught me so much, and God for giving me love, purpose, and the ability to do ballet!



## Brody Will

I am a 16-year-old junior at Hudson's Bay High School. This year, I am performing the roles of the Nutcracker, Prince, and Nephew. My previous roles have also included Fritz and Soldier. I am a member of NHS, key club, and president of the ASL club. I am on the varsity teams for cross-country, swimming, and track. I love running! This year, I will be going to Kentucky to run in the USATF Junior Olympic Cross-Country National Meet. Thank you for coming to the Nutcracker!

# Soloists





# act one

## Cast List

Performances feature A and B casts. 'A' cast performs Friday evening and Saturday Matinee. 'B' cast performs Saturday evening and Sunday matinee.

Maids - Josey Adkisson, Keira Bowles

Party Parents - Chelsea Beyer, Robert Brown, Katie and Lucus Walters, Shannon Bowles, Jamie Trotter

Clara - Esther Youm (A), Jasmine Dong (B)

Fritz - Ryan Will

Party Kids - Marin Thelen, Ashley Brown, Emma Will, Teagen Walters, Lily Hanna, Clara Guardado, Aleah Czerwien, Heather Anderberg

Drosselmeyer - Jim Bergren

Drosselmeyer's Nephew - Brody Will

Dolls - Evelyn Nedich , Jewel Dong

Jack in the Box - Ellie Muhleck(A), Mathea Latraverse(A), Addy Sawyer(B), Kinslee Kaufman(B)

Battle Sweets - Violet Dunford, Olivia Strong, Loralai Parnell, Lily Nold, Zoey Jiang, Melanie Campuzano, Everly Curley, Lincoln McGrady-Beach

Mice - Charlotte Pocock, Evalynn Mathisen, Kaia Thelen, Amelia Russo, Luci Trotter

Soldiers -Eve Ford, Eden Hamby, Peri Fick, Ryan Will, Hanalei Sweet, Millie Parnell, Hudson Smith, Kenzie Eaton

Mouse Queen- Kherington Hagen (A), Ellie Leadbetter (B)

Nutcracker - Brody Will

Flurries - Lydia Dermanel, Amelia Nold, Daisy Russo, Maggie Lyn Goss, Zoe Paxson

Snow- Rose Knoedler, Jade Dong, Myah Hendrickson, Anna Ruth Ordway, Natalie Brown

Snow Queen - Chelsea Beyer (A), Emma Hagendorn(B)

Snow Crystals: Rylee Dixon, Olivia Dowling, Rachel Short, Emma Nold, Ruby Ford, Samantha Neumann

Snow King - Jacoby Thompson

# act two

## Cast List

Performances feature A and B casts. 'A' cast performs Friday evening and Saturday Matinee. 'B' cast performs Saturday evening and Sunday matinee.

Pages - Eve Ford, Peri Fick, Eden Hamby, Kenzi Eaton,  
Hanalei Sweet, Hudson Smith

Candy Cord Leads - Olivia Wilder, Elsie Ramirez, Olivia Schave

Candy Corn - Lidya Dermanel, Amelia Nold, Daisy Russo,  
Maggie Lyn Goss, Zoe Paxson

The Candies - Marin Thelen, Ashley Brown, Emma Will, Teagen Walters,  
Lily Hanna, Clara Guardado, Kiera Bowles, Aleah Czerwien,  
Heather Anderberg, Josey Adkisson

Sugar Plum - Rose Knoedler (A), Jade Dong (B)

Neapolitan - Katelyn Sawyer, Bethany Anderberg, Kate Marshall

Spanish - Natalie Brown, Anna Ruth Ordway

Slovak Dancers - Bethany Anderberg, Anna Ruth Ordway

Chinese - Emma Nold, Ruby Ford, Rylee Dixon, Olivia Dowling,  
Rachel Short, Samantha Neumann

Shepherdess - Aliya Fowler (A), Evelyn Parnell (B)

Lambs - Charlotte Pocock, Evalynn Mathisen, Kaia Thelen,  
Amelia Russo, Luci Trotter

Mother G - Johnathon Parnell, Violet Dunford, Olivia Strong, Loralai Parnell,  
Lily Nold, Zoey Jiang, Melanie Campuzano, Everly Curley,  
Lincoln McGrady-Beach

Arabian - Jewel Dong, Ellie Muehleck, Kinslee Kaufman,  
Mathea Latraverse, Addy Sawyer

Dew Drop Fairy - Myah Hendrickson

Flowers - Ellie Leadbetter, Hope Hamby, Olivia Wilder, Elsie Ramirez,  
Olivia Schave, Kherington Hagen

Flower Trio - Chelsea Beyer(A), Emma Hagendorn(A),  
Esther Youm(B), Jasmine Dong(B)

Cavalier - Jacoby Thompson

# the nutcracker story

## *The Party*

It's the month of December and the Stahlbaums are hosting their annual holiday party. Though the weather is harsh and the ground is covered in snow, all of their closest friends are able to make it to the party. Once all the guests have arrived, they start the party by dancing together. Even Clara's younger brother, Fritz, is having a good time. Two special guests have arrived; the uncle to Clara and Fritz, Herr Drosselmeyer and his nephew. Drosselmeyer entertains the party-goers with a magic show, Jack-in-the-Box, and life-sized dancing dolls. He presents a very special gift to Clara: a priceless wooden Nutcracker. All are in awe of the Nutcracker and continue to dance with joy. After so much excitement, Clara, Fritz and all of the guests are exhausted. The Stahlbaums' guests bid farewell, thanking them for their hospitality, and graciously thanking Herr Drosselmeyer for the evening's entertainment.

## *The Battle*

It is almost midnight when Clara sneaks back into the living room to retrieve her Nutcracker from the mantel. She discovers something magical has happened. The tree towers over her while mice the size of children are wreaking havoc all over the room. Some are snatching candies from the tree while others try to steal her precious Nutcracker! Clara is defenseless and about to give up when suddenly an army of soldiers appears, led by a life-sized Nutcracker. The mice huddle in fear. Suddenly, the Mouse Queen enters the battlefield, strong and vicious. The Mouse Queen has come to save the mice and put an end to Clara and the Nutcracker. Clara watches in fear as the Nutcracker and the Mouse Queen duel. The power of the mice is overwhelming and in one final swoop the Mouse Queen renders the Nutcracker lifeless. In a burst of rage, Clara strikes the Mouse Queen in the head with a gigantic candy cane. The Mouse Queen falls to the ground and her little mice carry her away, surrendering the battle. Clara, in tears, throws herself on the ground. As her tears fall on the Nutcracker's face, he suddenly becomes a Prince! Overwhelmed with joy, Clara and the Prince dance together to celebrate their victory.

## *The Snow Storm*

Snow flurries begin to fall and Clara's living room is transformed into a winter wonderland. A light snow becomes a blizzard and gradually settles, revealing a pathway. The Snow King and Queen arrive to guide Clara and the Prince down the path to their destination - The Land of Sweets.

# the nutcracker story

## *The Land of Sweets*

The Land of Sweets comes alive as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier watch the celebration from their throne. The Sugar Plums Pages commence the entertainment followed by cotton candy, lemon drops, mint swirls, peppermint candies, candy corns, and neapolitans. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier greet Clara and the Prince as they join the festivities. To delight the Sugar Plum Fairy and her court, Clara and the Prince reenact the battle with the Mouse Queen. Impressed with their bravery, the Sugar Plum Fairy rewards them then performs a graceful solo for all to enjoy. As the gala continues the Sugar Plum Fairy presents Clara and the Prince with more dancing sweets from her kingdom.

Chinese Tea leaves are traditional and energetic. The Mirliton Shepherdess charmingly leads her adorable lambs. The Slovak Tea cakes are lively and brazen. Spanish Hot Chocolate is flashy and fast. Arabian coffee demonstrates patience and extraordinary skill. Mother Ginger and her children complete the cheerful show with their animated antics.

The room is then wondrously filled with flowers and petals as a single Dew Drop Fairy gracefully whirls among them. Once the flowers are done, the room quiets as the Sugar Plum Fairy is joined by her Cavalier as they come together for their magical duet enchanting everyone in the room. Clara and the Prince wonder how anything could be so beautiful. All the sweets gather for the final waltz of the evening as they wish Clara and the Prince farewell.



# act two

keep in touch

# Auditions!

## September 21, 2024

Ages 5-18, boys & girls  
and everyone gets a role!

For more information and to  
stay in touch find us @:



[vancouverdancetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:vancouverdancetheatre@gmail.com)



[www.vancouverdancetheatre.com](http://www.vancouverdancetheatre.com)



[facebook.com/vancouverdancetheatre](https://facebook.com/vancouverdancetheatre)

Thank you for a wonderful  
2023 Nutcracker season!