

The Nutcracker



Pennsylvania
PC
Ballet
Conservatory

Artistic Directors Vanessa Haidar & Rolando Sarabia

The Nutcracker Program by Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory

Published by Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory

Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory
123 Hidden Valley Road
Suite C
McMurray, PA 15317

<https://pennballet.com>

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Designed by Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory in McMurray, PA.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Welcome to Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory's annual presentation of *The Nutcracker*, a cherished tradition that lives at the very heart of our holiday season.

For us, the holidays do not truly arrive until the music starts, the curtains open, and we are once again able to share this timeless tale with you. There is unmistakable enchantment in every measure of Tchaikovsky's score, in the swirl of snow that drifts across the stage, in the wonder that is born as the Land of Sweets comes to life. We delight in every familiar moment from the festive gathering through the midnight battle to the whispering forest of snow before intermission. We are awed by the radiant procession of dancers from distant lands, and captivated by the luminous reverence of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Yet all these experiences, as beloved as they are, are not what moves us most deeply.

What moves us, year after year, is the privilege of guiding our dancers as they devote themselves to this work. It is the quiet camaraderie in the studio, the countless hours spent lifting one another (literally and figuratively) through fatigue and doubt, and the radiant happiness that overtakes them when they realize the story they have built together is now ready to be presented to you as a holiday gift.

Those feelings of anticipation and joy and excitement make up the true soul of our production. It is what we hope you also feel as the lights dim and the first notes sound; what we hope lingers with you through every scene and carries you to the closing chords.

From the eager steps of our youngest party guests to the triumphant final bow of our senior Sugar Plum Fairies, may this evening wrap you in the same warmth and wonder that fills our dancers' hearts.

Thank you, from all of us at PBC, for making us an enduring part of your family's holiday tradition.

Now, let the magic begin!

~ Vanessa & Rolando



ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA BALLET CONSERVATORY



Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory is a classical ballet school located in Peters Township. Founded in August 2018, our mission is to develop and inspire healthy dancers in a positive and inclusive environment, while providing professional ballet instruction and instilling an appreciation and lifelong love of dance.

We offer classes for ages 18 months and up, including adult classes. An early dismissal program is available to our high school students; designed to train those who wish to pursue a career in dance, either in a professional company or college.

Instruction primarily focuses on classical ballet, but to help round out our dancers' skills, students also learn other styles such as contemporary, jazz, and character.

For more information, please visit our website (pennballet.com), email info@pennballet.com, call us at (724) 747-8943, or stop by the studio.



ABOUT THE NUTCRACKER



The Nutcracker ballet is based on the story "*The Nutcracker and the King of Mice*" written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816 and revised by Alexandre Dumas in 1844. It is set to the music of composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and was originally choreographed by Marius Petipa.

The Nutcracker premiered in Saint Petersburg at the Marinsky Theater in December 1892. Its first United States performance was in 1944 by the San Francisco Ballet. The ballet did not achieve popularity in the United States until The New York City Ballet first performed George Balanchine's version of The Nutcracker in 1954. Its popularity became even more widespread after a 1958 television airing of the ballet. The now beloved ballet has become a holiday tradition for many families across the country for more than 65 years.

THE NUTCRACKER SYNOPSIS

ACT I

SCENE I - THE PARTY

It is Christmas Eve in the Stahlbaum house in the mid-1800's. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party, welcoming their family and friends. The children, Clara and Fritz, are dancing and playing as they welcome their friends, too.

The party grows festive with music and dancing. Presents are given out to the children. Suddenly, a mysterious figure enters the room. It is Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather. He is also a talented toymaker and is always full of surprises. He has brought gifts for the children, including several lifelike dolls. They are the delight of the party, each taking a turn to dance.

Drosselmeyer presents Clara with a wooden Nutcracker toy carved in the shape of a soldier. Clara loves the Nutcracker, but Fritz is jealous and snatches the Nutcracker from Clara and breaks it. Clara is heartbroken. She looks on as Drosselmeyer repairs the Nutcracker with a handkerchief he magically draws from the air. After the party has ended, Clara puts the Nutcracker to bed under the Christmas tree.



THE NUTCRACKER SYNOPSIS

ACT I

SCENE II - THE NIGHT BATTLE

During the night, after everyone else has gone to bed, Clara returns to the parlor to check on her beloved Nutcracker. Then, as the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. Drosselmeyer returns, and to Clara's astonishment, he magically makes the Christmas tree grow high above her and brings the Nutcracker to life.

The toy soldiers come alive while the room fills with an army of mice, led by the fierce Rat King and Queen. The Nutcracker leads his army of toy soldiers into battle against the mice. After the Nutcracker has fallen and all hope seems lost, Clara throws her slipper at the Rat Queen and the Nutcracker then kills her. Drosselmeyer reappears and transforms the Nutcracker into a handsome young prince. The Prince invites Clara to journey with him to his home — the Land of Sweets.

ACT I

SCENE III - THE ENCHANTED FOREST

On their journey to the Land of Sweets, Clara and the Prince travel through the Land of Snow, an enchanted forest wonderland where they are welcomed by beautiful, dancing snowflakes.



INTERMISSION

THE NUTCRACKER SYNOPSIS

ACT II

THE LAND OF SWEETS

Clara and the Prince soon reach the Land of Sweets, where they are greeted by Angels. Once they reach the Prince's palace, they meet the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince recounts how he had been saved from the Rat King and Queen by Clara and transformed back into himself.

In honor of the young heroes, Clara is presented with a crown and the Prince with a red handkerchief. A celebration of sweets from around the world is called upon to entertain Clara: chocolate from Spain, coffee from Arabia, tea from China, and candy canes and dolls from Russia all dance for their amusement; Marzipan and tiny Gumdrops also dance; and a string of beautiful flowers perform a waltz. To conclude the night, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier perform a Pas De Deux that is lighter than air.

As the time arrives for Clara to leave, all of the dancers bid her farewell. Clara leaves the palace and awakens in her home. Clara realizes that the dream was not completely unreal when she notices the crown on her head and the red handkerchief around the Nutcracker's neck.

THE END



CAST

Act I - Scene I - The Party

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Clara</i>	Ainsley Pritz	Scarlett Pruemer	Eve Snyder
<i>Fritz</i>	Marshall Damon	Marshall Damon	Marshall Damon
<i>President</i>	Will Damon	Will Damon	Will Damon
<i>Mrs. Stahlbaum</i>	Ashley Halloran	Ashley Halloran	Ashley Halloran
<i>Drosselmeyer</i>	Hansel Correa Diaz	Hansel Correa Diaz	Hansel Correa Diaz
<i>Nephews</i>	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Russell Damon Benny Dolan Austin Snyder Max Pruemer	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Russell Damon Benny Dolan Austin Snyder Max Pruemer	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Russell Damon Benny Dolan Austin Snyder Max Pruemer
<i>Two Best Friends</i>	Mae Connolly Emilija Wardzala	Lyra Halloran Zara Senft	Spencer Dolan Addison Ward
<i>Friends</i>	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich
<i>Maids</i>	Lindsey Damon Victoria Duda Ella Way	Lindsey Damon Victoria Duda Ella Way	Lindsey Damon Victoria Duda Ella Way
<i>Adults</i>	Darren Bradley David Dougherty Sarah Dougherty Adriane Farmer Diego Martinez Haidar Mariah Strnisha	Darren Bradley David Dougherty Sarah Dougherty Adriane Farmer Diego Martinez Haidar Mariah Strnisha	Darren Bradley David Dougherty Sarah Dougherty Adriane Farmer Diego Martinez Haidar Mariah Strnisha

CAST

Act I - Scene I - The Party

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
Adults	Abby Thomas John Torma	Abby Thomas John Torma	Abby Thomas John Torma
Weber Family	Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Natalia Wojton Grace Young	Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Natalia Wojton Grace Young	Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Natalia Wojton Grace Young
Little Dolls	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young
Columbine Doll	Zara Senft	Addison Ward	Lyra Halloran
Flower Doll	Scarlett Pruemmer	Mae Connolly	Emilija Wardzala
Soldierette Dolls	Sydney Duda Nicole Dunlap	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda



CAST

Act I - Scene II - The Night Battle

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Prince</i>	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar
<i>Rat King</i>	Lindsey Damon	Lindsey Damon	Lindsey Damon
<i>Rat Queen</i>	Mariah Strnisha	Eve Snyder	Nicole Dunlap
<i>Baby Mice</i>	Lilliana Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Lucy Mahoney Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Lucy Mahoney Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Lucy Mahoney Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young
<i>Big Mice</i>	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich
<i>General</i>	Russell Damon	Russell Damon	Russell Damon
<i>Soldiers</i>	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Marshall Damon Benny Dolan Max Pruemmer Austin Snyder	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Marshall Damon Benny Dolan Max Pruemmer Austin Snyder	Dean Connolly Ken Connolly Marshall Damon Benny Dolan Max Pruemmer Austin Snyder



CAST

Act I - Scene II - The Night Battle

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Soldierettes</i>	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Penelope Perino Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Penelope Perino Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Penelope Perino Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young

Act I - Scene III - The Enchanted Forest

<i>Snow Queen</i>	Nicole Dunlap	Mariah Strnisha	Ella Way
<i>Snow King</i>	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar
<i>Snow Demis</i>	Mariah Strnisha Ella Way	Nicole Dunlap Ella Way	Nicole Dunlap Mariah Strnisha
<i>Snowflakes</i>	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Illyana Sicchitano Eve Snyder Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Illyana Sicchitano Eve Snyder Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Ainsley Pritz Illyana Sicchitano Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala
<i>Snow Crystal</i>	Scarlett Pruemer	Mae Connolly	Scarlett Pruemer
<i>Snow Crystal Corps</i>	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Mia Winovich

CAST

Act II - The Land of Sweets

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Angel Lead</i>	Emilija Wardzala	Ainsley Pritz	Grace Mychalishyn
<i>Angel Demi</i>	Verena Belldina Charlotte Foltin	Siena Cuneo Caitlyn Seibert	Siena Cuneo Caitlyn Seibert
<i>Angel Corps</i>	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lucy Mahoney Penelope Perino Mia Welnick Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Noelle Young
<i>Spanish Lead</i>	Sydney Duda	Eve Snyder	Hannah Damon
<i>Spanish Corps</i>	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft
<i>Arabian Lead</i>	Ella Way	Nicole Dunlap	Ella Way
<i>Arabian Male</i>	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar	Diego Martinez Haidar
<i>Chinese Leads</i>	Scarlett Pruemer Zara Senft	Spencer Dolan Zara Senft	Scarlett Pruemer Zara Senft
<i>Chinese Corps</i>	Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Mia Winovich	Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Mia Winovich	Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Mia Winovich
<i>Marzipan Lead</i>	Ella Way	Ella Way	Ella Way
<i>Marzipan Corps</i>	Sydney Duda Nicole Dunlap Eve Snyder Mariah Strnisha	Hannah Damon Nicole Dunlap Eve Snyder Mariah Strnisha	Hannah Damon Sydney Duda Nicole Dunlap Illyana Sicchitano

CAST

Act II - The Land of Sweets

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Polichenelle Lead</i>	Lindsey Damon	Lindsey Damon	Lindsey Damon
<i>Polichenelle Corps</i>	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Lucia Szuminsky Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Lucia Szuminsky Mia Winovich	Verena Belldina Aryanna Bradley Jane Connolly Siena Cuneo Charlotte Foltin Geneva Hinton Evelina Kroz Caitlyn Seibert Lucia Szuminsky Mia Winovich
<i>Gum Drops</i>	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Harper Mahoney Lucy Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Mia Welnick Emmeline Wheeler Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Grace Young Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Harper Mahoney Lucy Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Mia Welnick Emmeline Wheeler Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Grace Young Noelle Young	Lilliana Babik Rosalina Babik Lyla Bamberger Amelia Farmer Harper Mahoney Lucy Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Mia Welnick Emmeline Wheeler Eva Yancey Mila Yancey Grace Young Noelle Young
<i>Russian Lead</i>	Mae Connolly	Grace Mychalishyn	Ainsley Pritz
<i>Russian Demis</i>	Spencer Dolan Addison Ward	Lyra Halloran Zara Senft	Scarlett Pruemmer Addison Ward
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Hannah Damon	Sydney Duda	Mariah Strnisha
<i>Sugar Plum Cavalier</i>	Rolando Sarabia	Rolando Sarabia	Rolando Sarabia

CAST

Act II - The Land of Sweets

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Candy Cane Lead</i>	Eve Snyder	Grace Mychalishyn	Emilija Wardzala
<i>Candy Canes</i>	Mae Connolly Scarlett Pruemmer Zara Senft Addison Ward	Mae Connolly Zara Senft Addison Ward Emilija Wardzala	Mae Connolly Scarlett Pruemmer Zara Senft Addison Ward
<i>Mini Candy Canes</i>	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young	Rosalina Babik Harper Mahoney Grace Sinnamond Lucia Szuminsky Emmeline Wheeler Grace Young
<i>Dew Drop</i>	Eve Snyder	Eve Snyder	Sydney Duda
<i>Waltz Demi</i>	Nicole Dunlap Ella Way	Hannah Damon Ella Way	Hannah Damon Ella Way
<i>Roses</i>	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft Addison Ward	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft Addison Ward	Mae Connolly Spencer Dolan Lyra Halloran Zara Senft Addison Ward
<i>Flowers</i>	Sydney Duda Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Illyana Sicchitano Maddie Stern Mariah Strnisha Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala	Nicole Dunlap Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Ainsley Pritz Illyana Sicchitano Maddie Stern Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala	Nicole Dunlap Vera Mitchell Grace Mychalishyn Ainsley Pritz Illyana Sicchitano Maddie Stern Abby Thomas Emilija Wardzala

CAST

Act II - Grand Pas de Deux

	Dec. 20, 1pm	Dec. 20, 6pm	Dec. 21, 1pm
<i>Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	Hannah Damon	Sydney Duda	Mariah Strnisha
<i>Sugar Plum Cavalier</i>	Rolando Sarabia	Rolando Sarabia	Rolando Sarabia



PC
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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreography Vanessa Haidar
Rolando Sarabia
Hansel Correa Diaz

Rehearsal Instructors Vanessa Haidar
Rolando Sarabia
Hansel Correa Diaz

*Costume Director &
Head Seamstress* Diane Damon

Costumes Ashley Halloran
Lisa Mychalishyn

Photography Sarah Dougherty
Sarenae Photography

Printing Slavia Printing

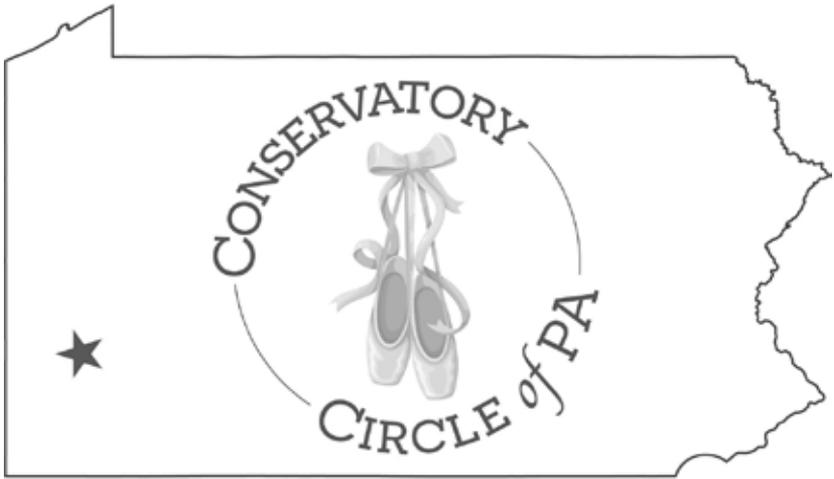
Program Will Damon

Program Editor Ashley Halloran

Staging Will Damon
Hansel Correa Diaz
Kevin Pruemer
Max Pruemer
Bethel Park HS Theater Staff

Videography Hansel Correa Babe





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Investing in the next generation of PBC dancers.



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TEACHER PROFILES

Vanessa Haidar - Artistic Director

Vanessa graduated from the National Ballet School of Havana, Cuba, as a ballet dancer and instructor. Vanessa danced with the National Ballet of Cuba for 10 years, performing in classical ballets worldwide. Notable ballets in which she has performed include Swan Lake, Giselle, The Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Coppelia, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Snow White, Balanchine's Theme and Variations, and Il Ballo de la Regina. Vanessa moved to the United States in 2013. She has taught at numerous ballet schools in Florida and Pennsylvania, and at Seton Hill University. In 2015, she started coaching students participating in Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) and World Ballet Competition, placing Top 24, Top 12, 2nd and 1st. In 2018, Vanessa co-founded the award-winning Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory where she serves as Artistic Director and Senior Director of Ballet Instruction, and personally teaches several levels. Vanessa resides in McMurray with her son, Diego.



Rolando Sarabia - Artistic Director

Rolando Sarabia joined PBC in 2024 as co-Artistic Director alongside Vanessa Haidar. A Cuban-born ballet virtuoso Rolando has performed with prestigious companies worldwide, including (but not limited to) the Cuban National Ballet, Houston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Washington Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. Trained by masters such as his father, Alicia Alonso, and Lázaro Carreño at the National Ballet School in Havana, Rolando has earned global acclaim for his artistry. Named the "Cuban Nijinsky" by The New York Times, Rolando is known for his captivating performances and has collaborated with legendary dancers like Maya Plisetskaya and Patrick Dupont. Over his impressive career, Rolando has been awarded countless accolades, including the extremely prestigious Prix Benois de la Danse. Though an incredibly accomplished dancer himself, Rolando is also dedicated to mentoring future dancers, as demonstrated by his recent role as Artistic Director of the Roanoke Ballet Theatre, and relocating to Pennsylvania to become a part of PBC's journey. The expertise and passion Rolando brings, along with his dedication to the art of ballet, will undoubtedly inspire and elevate our students, and our studio, to new heights.

TEACHER PROFILES

Hansel Correa Diaz

Hansel graduated from the prestigious Alejo Carpentier Ballet School in Havana in 2005. He then attended the National School of Arts to continue his career with a concentration in Spanish Dance (Flamenco). Hansel graduated with high honors, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Spanish Dance in July of 2011. He began his professional career in the Corps de Ballet at the internationally renowned Ballet Español de Cuba Company. He moved quickly to soloist and principal dancer, having the opportunity to perform with international principal dancers such as Francisco Núñez (Spain), José Manuel Carreño, and others. His performance experience includes Sevilla en el Tiempo, Homenaje a Martín Vargas, The Phantom of the Opera, Carmen, Romance Bacalice, Romance in B, Las Bodas de Luis Alonso, Asturias, Emigrante, Gitanillas y Toreros, Sombrero de los Tres Picos, Al Andaluz, among many others. In 2013, Hansel made his debut as a choreographer, working with Víctor Basilio in "Encontra2." Hansel was an instructor at The Spanish Ballet School for 5 years, teaching all ages. Hansel has taught and performed with Laurel Ballet, Broadway Dance Studio, Laura Lynn's School of Ballet and Alba Flamenca Studio. Hansel now owns and operates his own home remodeling business and teaches various classes at PBC. He lives in McMurray with his beautiful family.



Alexander Zankin

Alexander Zankin is a renowned character dance teacher. He graduated from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv, Bulgaria with a Master of Arts in Choreography and from the University of Varna with a Bachelor of Arts in Choreography. Most recently, he has been a teacher and choreographer with numerous dance schools across the Pittsburgh area, including Pittsburgh Ballet Theater School, Ballet Academy of Pittsburgh, Wexford Dance Company, West Point Ballet, and Laurel Ballet. Prior to this, he taught and choreographed dance throughout Bulgaria. Zankin has won many awards for his work, including the Gold Lyre for Choreographic High Achievement (Union of Bulgaria), 1st Category Choreographer (State Commission of Performing Arts, Bulgaria), Gold Pin for Performer High Achievement (State Dept. of the Army, Bulgaria), and Extraordinary Category Performer (State Commission of Performing Arts, Bulgaria).

SENIOR PROFILE

Hannah Damon



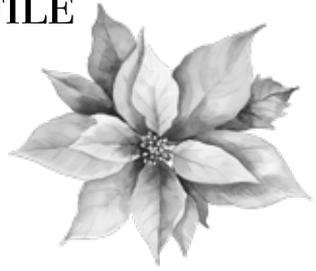
Hannah's love for dance began in first grade, attending Pleasant Valley's after-school dance program. After trying many different styles, she quickly fell in love with ballet, later becoming a key inspiration behind the founding of PBC.

Hannah has been with PBC since its beginning, dancing various roles across a wide range of ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, and *Giselle*. Outside of her own training, Hannah shares her passion for dance through her volunteering. Always the first to step up and help, she teaches the Ballet Abilities class, organizes and rehearses community performances, and runs the community day booth. She also shares her love for dance with the next generation of dancers, teaching the younger classes at PBC, ballet classes for McMurray's after-school dance program, and even taking ballet training to the rhythmic gymnasts at GymSport.

After graduation Hannah plans to pursue college, majoring in forensic science. She is thankful for her family for the opportunities they gave her, as well as Miss Vanessa and Mr. Rolando for always pushing her to do her best.

SENIOR PROFILE

Sydney Duda



Sydney Duda is a senior at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. Sydney trains in the pre-professional program at Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory. She began her love for ballet at the age of 4 where she began training at Laurel Ballet in Greensburg. She has also received training from C.P.Y.B., Cincinnati Ballet, BalletMet, and UNCSA at summer intensives. She received scholarships for summer intensives from Cincinnati Ballet and the Dancing Angels Foundation.

Over her years of ballet, Sydney has been able to perform many different roles at PBC, with a few of her favorites such as Cupid, Two Friends (*Don Quixote*), Four Swans (*Swan Lake*), Friends (*Coppélia*), and Snow Queen (*The Nutcracker*).

This weekend Sydney will be performing in her 13th Nutcracker and will be dancing the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Dew Drop. After graduation, Sydney is planning on continuing her dance career and is currently auditioning for trainee, graduate, and BFA college programs.

Sydney would like to thank Vanessa and Rolando for always pushing her to be better every day. She is so grateful for the love and support she receives and loves them both so much. PBC will always have a special place in her heart.



SENIOR PROFILE

Mariah Strnisha



Mariah Grace Strnisha discovered her passion for dance at the age of 4 and has trained at various studios across southwestern Pennsylvania, with Dance with Me by Sisters 3 and Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory standing out as the most special places along her journey. For several years she was also successful at competitive dance before focusing exclusively on classical ballet.

Over the years, Mariah has performed a wide range of featured roles with PBC, including Queen of the Dryads (*Don Quixote*), Fairy of Tenderness and a Precious Stone (*The Sleeping Beauty*), Two Swans (*Swan Lake*), Gamzatti (*La Bayadère*), and Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen, and Rat Queen (*The Nutcracker*).

After completing high school, Mariah plans to study accounting at Washington & Jefferson College, in Washington, PA, while also pursuing her dream of dancing professionally.

Mariah is deeply grateful for the incredible training and unwavering support she has received at Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory. She would especially like to thank her instructors, Vanessa and Rolando, and the Damon Family for believing in her and always encouraging her to do her best.

Nicole,

Be where your feet are.

Good Luck!

Love,
Gabe, Bailey and friends.



Grace & Noelle,

We love watching both of you dance!

Congrats on your 1st and 3^d Nutcracker!
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom
& Dad



Oma
and
Grandy
love you
bigger
than
the
sky!!

Mia



To our sweet ballerina,



We are so proud of you on your very first role as *Clara*, and as the *Russian* and *Angel* lead.

Your hard work, dedication, and love for dance shine through in everything you do. Watching you grow into such a graceful, determined dancer has been one of our greatest joys.

Before the show, take a deep breath, trust your talent, and let your heart guide every step.

Dance the day away, sweetheart - we'll be cheering for you with full hearts.

With all our love,

*Mom, Dad
& Hudson*



We are so proud of you



Best of luck
to all of the
PBC
dancers!

Mia,
To our sweet ballerina,
May your joy and sparkle
light up the stage.

We are
so proud
of you!

Love,
Gigi &
Pap



Congratulations, Scarlett!



Magic on stage, forever in our hearts!

Love,
Grandma & Grandpap

Siena,

We are so excited
to watch you dance
in another amazing
Nutcracker!

With love,
Mom, Dad
& Luca



Dear Sydney,

I'm so lucky to have shared 13 Nutcrackers with you.
I can't believe this is our last together. I wouldn't have made it without you.

Love,
Nicole



Watching you dance in
The Nutcracker makes the
holiday season magical!



We
love
you!

Mom
& Dad

*Clara comes alive with your
sparkle, grace, and magic!*

What a joy to watch.

*Congratulations,
Scarlett!*



*With all
our love,*

Mom, Dad & Max

*Good Luck,
Spencer!*



*Love,
Mom, Dad,
Benny, Thea, and
Nathan!*

*We are so
proud of you!*



Harper

&

Luey



*We are so proud of you both and
all of your hard work. Have the
best time shining on the stage!*

*Love,
Mommy & Daddy*

*Watching you dance is my
favorite part of the Nutcracker,
Eve.*



*So proud
of you!!*

*Love,
Ethan*

Nicole,

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

Stay strong, stay focused and stay the course.



Good luck
as
Snow Queen
&
Arabian!

We love you,
Mom, Dad,
Gabe, Seth, Heath,
Bailey, Skye and Josh

Congratulations, Lyra.
We are so proud of you!



And to Ashley -

We are so proud of you, too,
and we thank you for making it all happen!



Love,



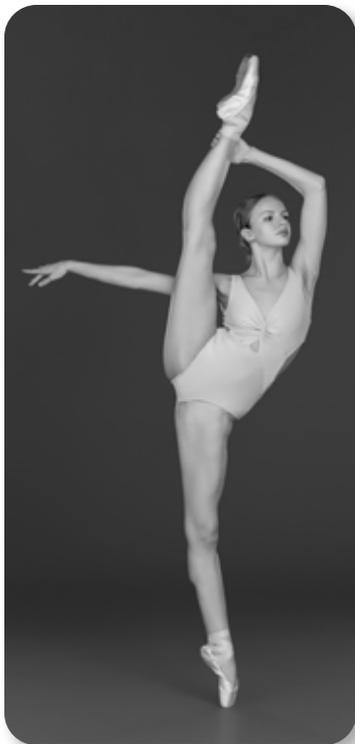
Nana, Grandpapa, and Whitney



Mia,

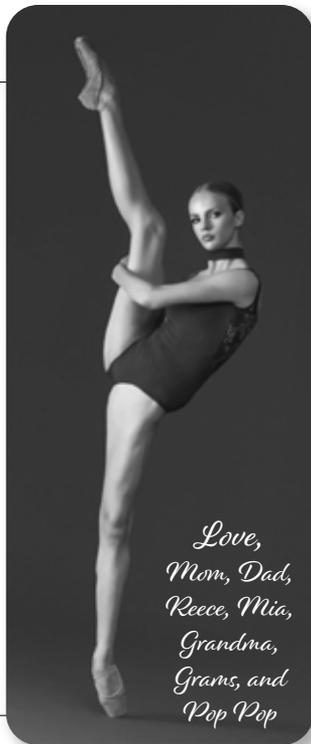
Your first dance show is the start of something special. Wishing you all the luck in the world for your first Nutcracker show! May your dancing sparkle like snowflakes and your joy light up the stage.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Zoe



Ella

Congratulations on such a beautiful Nutcracker performance. Watching you on stage fills our hearts with so much joy - you shine with a grace and strength that is completely your own. We see how hard you work every single day, and we are endlessly inspired by your passion, discipline, and love for this art form. Seeing you dance is one of our greatest joys. We love you and are so incredibly proud of you.



Love,
Mom, Dad,
Reece, Mia,
Grandma,
Grams, and
Pop Pop

Sydney.



We have watched you grow for the last 13 years as a dancer. From performing as a *bonbon* in your very first *Nutcracker* to where you are today, a senior, dancing the roles of *Sugar Plum Fairy* and *Dew Drop*. You have overcome obstacles in your path and have achieved far more than we could've imagined.



We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds! Enjoy your moment on stage!

We love you so much!

Dad. Mom.

Victoria.

Grammy. Uncle

Vinny. Aunt

Johanne, and

Other Grandma

Dream
Believe
Do

Mariah

*Congratulations on your
beautiful performances as
Snow Queen &
Sugar Plum Fairy
in your senior year with
PBC!*

Enjoy every moment!



*We are so proud of you,
Eve!*

Keep shining!

Love,
Mom,
Dad,
Eli & Austin



We are so proud of you two incredible boys and all the hard work you've done for *The Nutcracker*! Watching you light up the stage with your love and energy for the show is the best part of the whole day — now go out there and have the best time!

Dean



Ken



Love,
Dad and Mom

Jane & Mae



We are so proud of you two amazing dancers and your hard work that you bring, not only to making *The Nutcracker* come to life, but to dance in general! Watching you sparkle on stage fills our hearts with joy. Dance big, have fun, and shine bright — we love you so much!

Love,
Dad and Mom

Lindsey



Watching you grow into the extraordinary young woman you are becoming fills our hearts with happiness. You lift everyone around you, quite literally at cheer, but more importantly in every other way that matters. You inspire us with your heart, your mind, your sense of adventure, and your light.

Have fun as you take the stage as the whimsical Polichenelle and lead those little gumdrops through an acrobatic extravaganza.

We love you beyond words,

Mom, Dad, William, Hannah, Russell, Marshall, and Grandpa

Hannah

Watching
you dance for
the last 12 years
has brought us
so much joy.

Enjoy every minute of
your final Nutcracker
performance with the
studio you helped
shape since
the start.

You are,
always have been,
& always will be
our inspiration.

All our Love,
Mom, Dad,
William,
Lindsey, Russell,
Marshall, and Grandpa



Good Luck Grace!
We love you and are so proud of you!
~Love, Mom and Dad



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*Good Luck to all the
PBC dancers!*



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