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**ILLINOIS YOUTH DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC, "THE NUTCRACKER"
DECEMBER 21-23 AT THE LAKE ZURICH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

Deer Park, IL: Illinois Youth Dance Theatre is pleased to present the 13th Annual, "The Nutcracker," a full length holiday ballet by Tchaikovsky, which tells the heart-warming story of a young German girl named Marie, who receives a magical gift from her godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer on Christmas Eve. The Nutcracker toy turns into a Prince after a battle with the Mouse King. The Nutcracker Prince takes Marie on an adventure into The Land of Snow and The Kingdom of Sweets, where snowflakes sparkle, Gingerbreads play, and enchanted flowers dazzle the stage with color and movement. Highly regarded as one of the best Chicagoland interpretations of "The Nutcracker," this magical performance by over 70 local dancers will inspire a holiday tradition for years to come.

The full length ballet features pre-professional junior and senior company members from the Illinois Youth Dance Theatre, who range in age from 4 to 18, and train at the Center for Ballroom and Dance in Deer Park under the direction of Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann, Artistic Director. Her credentials include dancing professionally for 13 years with The Milwaukee Ballet as a soloist. "The Nutcracker" features professional guest artists, Ricardo Santos of The Joffery Ballet, Liam Fitzpatrick of The Chicago Academy of the Performing Arts and Kristin Kaye, a former World Champion Rhythmic Gymnast.

"The Nutcracker" will be performed Friday, December 21st at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 22nd at 1:00 and 5:00PM and Sunday, December 23rd at 3:00PM at the Lake Zurich Performing Arts Center at 300 Church Street in Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Tickets range from \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased beginning October 8th by visiting <http://www.ballroomanddance.com/iydt-productions.html>

Illinois Youth Dance Theatre was founded in 1999 by Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann, and operates as a not-for-profit organization committed to classic and contemporary ballet repertoire. IYDT promotes community outreach and cultivates interest and education in performing arts, as well as enriching the personal best in each dancer. Illinois Youth Dance Theatre is funded by members and private donations. All donations are tax deductible via 501(c) (3).

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