

*December 13 at 2pm & 7pm; December 14 at 2pm
Shelton High School Performing Arts Center*

Based on the story by E.T.A. Hoffman, adapted by A. Dumas

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| Music | P.I. Tchaikovsky |
| Choreography | Nancy and Mick Gunter (Sugar Plum pas de deux after the original by Lev Ivanov) Nutcracker/Rat Captain fight choreography by Jack Burlingame |
| Pas de Deux Coach | Kyle Leapline |
| Head Costumer | Emily Smith |
| Costume Assistant | Sarah White |
| Seamstresses | Jeni Burlingame, Laurel Cochran, Katherine Fogde, Shelby Hashagen, Joy Johnston, Randee Newberry, Briana Smith, |
| Prop Construction | Samantha Gunter , Matt Leopold |
| Technical Director | Joey Seward |
| Stage Manager | Jacob Mecham |
| Backstage Coordinator | Erin Nowa |
| House Manager | Malinda Wilhelmi |

A big thank you to the Shelton High School Drama Club for helping our behind the scenes!

Thank you to the Evergreen Playhouse for the loan of several cloaks for our party guests.

Special thanks to Joy Johnston for lending her veil expertise to our Arabian dancers.

Also, thank you to all of the dancers and parents who have put in hours before and during this event to make it happen.

The Nutcracker - Synopsis

Prologue

Young Drosselmeyer creates his first dolls and shows them to his sweetheart. A mouse interrupts his work, creating havoc and leading to an eye injury (and the need for his iconic eye patch).

ACT I

It is Christmas Eve in a small town in Germany, sometime in the late 1800's. As the guests arrive, the children's excitement to receive Christmas gifts reaches a frenzy. Despite this, they all try to behave like young ladies and gentlemen under the watchful eye of the head maid. Clara's godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, arrives late and startles the guests with his mysterious manner. Drosselmeyer is a clock and toy maker - and a bit of a magician. Soon, however, Drosselmeyer and his nephew become the heart of the party, entertaining the children with four life size mechanical dolls. Clara, in particular, is delighted and eagerly asks him for more.

Drosselmeyer has one more surprise up his sleeves as he presents his favorite creation, the Nutcracker. Clara immediately falls in love with the Nutcracker. Fritz becomes jealous and breaks Clara's Nutcracker.

Drosselmeyer repairs him and Clara and her friends rock their dolls to sleep with a lullaby. Soon, it is time for the traditional grandparents' dance. With the children tired, the party winds down, and the guests depart. The Silberhuas family retires, leaving the house staff to clean up.

Clara is too excited to sleep as she recalls the evening's party and her Nutcracker left under the Christmas tree. She sneaks back to the living room to find him. With the house quite, the mice begin to appear.

Drosselmeyer appears, along with his pet owl, to rescue Clara and he magically makes the house and the Christmas tree grow. Even her Nutcracker grows to be a life size soldier!

The Nutcracker Prince and his tin soldiers battle the mice. The Rat Captain appears and the battle between the soldiers and the pirate mice ensues. The Rat Captain seems to have the upper hand when Clara jumps in to help - first by taking up a sword and ultimately by distracting the Rat Captain by throwing her shoe at him. This allows the Nutcracker Prince to slay the Rat Captain.

The grateful Nutcracker Prince invites Clara to join him on a journey through a magical forest, where they meet the Snow King and Queen and see the Snowflakes dance. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince continue on their journey to the Land of Sweets.

ACT II - The Sugar Plum Fairy's Pavilion in the Land of Sweets

Act II begins at the gate to the Land of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy's Musketeers are on guard. Chef Ginger, the Sugar Plum Fairy's chief chef, gathers an array of sweets from inhabitants of the kingdom.

Suddenly, the Nutcracker Prince and Clara burst into the pavilion and are greeted by the Nutcracker's old friend, the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Nutcracker Prince tells the court the story of how Clara saved his life. In gratitude, the Sugar Plum Fairy asks Clara to sit in her throne and festivities commence in Clara's honor. Representing hot chocolate, Spanish dancers perform with passion and flourish. Arabian dancers mesmerize the court with a dance representing creamy coffee, followed by acrobatic Chinese dancers representing tea. The Russian "tea cake" dancers perform a boisterous Russian dance before the Marzipan shepherdess and her sheep appear. Chef Ginger returns with her distracted sous-chef and mischievous creations, gingerbread cookies. Dewdrop and her Flowers dance a lilting waltz. The Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier honor Clara and the Nutcracker with a grand pas de deux, and the entire court joins in the finale.

Every dream must come to an end. Clara awakens cradling her Nutcracker doll in her arms. She remembers and wonders... was this all a dream?

Cast

Prologue

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| Young Frau Windmueller | Ava James |
| Shepherdess Doll | Adalia Silberman |
| Pirate Doll | Elizabeth Landry |
| Fairy Doll | Ryan Corinne Jorgensen |
| Young Drosselmeyer | Alexander Kellum |
| Mouse | Caroline Miller or Magnolia Miller |

Act I

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| Clara Silberhaus | Kendra Aguirre-Huerta (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm), Laney Nowa (Sat 7pm) |
| Fritz Silberhaus | Roman Alvarado Zaldivar (Sat. 2pm;Sun. 2pm), Perrin Fisher (Sat 7pm) |
| Frau & Herr Silberhuas | Jeni and Scott Burlingame |
| Head Maid | Rebecca Fogde |
| Maid | Braylin Fuss |
| Butler | Cowin Raynolds |
| Grandmother Silberhaus | Lynn Gear |
| Grandfather Silberhaus | Ed Thorpe |
| Grandma Stahlbaum | Katherine Gulmert |
| Frau & Herr Versnobt | Kristina and Matthew Leopold, Sr. |
| Frau Strohvitwe | Emily Smith |
| Strohvitwe Eldest Son | Owen Hedgers (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm), Wesley Wilhelmi (Sat 7pm) |
| Frau Windmueller | Caitlyn Rose |
| Party Boys | Ryan Alvarado-Zaldivar, Matthew Leopold, Jr., Joshua Pack, Quinton Wilehlmi, Roman Alvarado-Zaldivar (Sat. 2pm; Sun, 2pm), Perrin Fisher (Sat 7pm) |
| Clara's Best Friend | Aurora Foote |
| Party Girls | Kendra Aguirre-Huerta (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm), Laney Nowa (Sat 7pm), Meadow Hughes, Charlotte Leopold, Behya Miranda, Delilah Newberry, |
| Herr Drosselmeyer | Owen Hedgers (Sat 7pm), Wesley Wilhelmi (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm) |
| Nephew/Nutcracker | Carter Johnston Sat 7pm), Cael Best (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm) |
| Columbine Doll | Thalia Martinez |
| Ballerina Doll | Lucy Lennox |
| Pirate Doll | Mars Hughes |
| Soldier Doll | Landen Nowa |
| Rat Admirals | Sam Burlingame, Joshua Pack, Tiberius Wilhelmi |

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| Drosselmeyer's Owl | Amelia White |
| Soldiers | Rakel Hannum, Eleanor Heck (Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm), Annabelle Long, Jecht Mora, Payton Roth, Quinton Wilhelmi (Sat 2pm) |
| Rat Captain | Jack Burlingame |
| Mice | Carly Burlingame, Zenith Thompson |
| Snow Queen | Briana Smith |
| Snow King | Owen Hedgers (Sat 7pm), Wesley Wilhelmi (Sat, 2pm; Sun, 2pm) |
| Snowflakes | Laurel Cochran, Elsa Freeberg, Samantha Gunter, Emma Hashagen, Lily Lennox, Aris Rajala, Lydia Smith, Adeline Wilhelmi, Jamiah Wood |

~There will be a 15 minute intermission~

Act II

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| Sugar Plum Fairy | Lydia Smith(Sat, 2pm, Sun 2pm), Jamiah Wood (Sat 7pm). |
| Her Cavalier | Owen Hedgers (Sat 2pm, Sun 2pm), Wesley Wilhelmi (Sat 7pm) |
| Musketeers | Sam Burlingame, Alexander Kellum, Tiberius Wilhelmi |
| Spanish Hot Chocolate | Elsa Freeberg, Samantha Gunter, Mars Hughes, Landen Nowa, Briana Smith, Cael Best (Sat 7pm), Carter Johnston (Sat, 2pm, Sun 2pm) |
| Arabian Coffee | Aris Rajala, Adeline Wilhelmi. Lydia Smith (Sat 7pm), Jamiah Wood (Sat, 2pm, Sun 2pm), |
| Chinese Tea | |
| Lead | Emma Hashagen |
| Mini: | Carly Burlingame |
| Russian Tea Cakes | Sam Burlingame, Jack Burlingame, Alexander Kellum, Corwin Raynolds |
| Marzipan Shepherdess | Laurel Cochran |
| Sheep | Caroline Miller, Magnolia Miller |
| Chef Ginger | Rebecca Fogde |
| Sous-Chef | Aris Rajala |
| Gingerbread Cookies | Esmerelda Foote, Neala O'Brian |
| Dewdrop Fairy | Lily Lennox |
| Lead Flowers | Lucy Lennox, Thalia Martinez |
| Flowers | Kaydence Arellanes, Auria Frank, Braylin Fuss, Maddison Leopold, Summer Moran, Amelia White |

We want to acknowledge the work that Liam Clark put into preparing for this year's Nutcracker. Sadly sidelined by injury, he will not be appearing this year but we look forward to having him back next year.

Centralia Ballet Academy Company Members

CBA Company Members are chosen by audition. These young dancers not only perform in our major productions. They also participate in additional master classes, attend professional performances, choreograph and perform for our annual Halloween show, and more. They are given additional opportunities to expose them to the world of professional dance - past experiences have included master classes at the studios of Oregon Ballet Theatre, backstage tours with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, attending performances by Pacific Northwest Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem, training with Cirque du Soleil - and more.



Kendra Aguirre-Huerta (Company Apprentice) - Clara/Party Girl - is from Centralia and goes to Rochester Middle School. She receives her dance training from Centralia Ballet Academy and would like to thank Nancy, Mick and Kyle. Her favorite past roles include a Lilac Fairy attendant in *The Sleeping Beauty* and party girl in *The Nutcracker*. When she is not dancing, Kendra enjoys crocheting and diamond art (she once crocheted a pickle). What do you call cheese that is not yours? Nacho cheese!



Cael Best - Nephew/Nutcracker, Spanish - is 13 years old and is a homeschooled student from Centralia. He has been dancing at Centralia Ballet Academy for the past eight years, training in ballet, tap and jazz. Some of his favorite roles have included the title role in *The Nutcracker*, John Darling in *Peter Pan* and the Wolf in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Cael is grateful to Nancy and Mick Gunter, Kyle Leapline and Theresa McMurry for their support, encouragement and the countless hours they've invested in helping him grow.. In addition to dance, Cael is an actor, singer and pianist and has appeared in multiple plays in musicals throughout the area. He hopes to attend the University of Washington and major in

Performing Arts with dreams of becoming a professional actor. When he is not on stage, Cael enjoys hanging out with friends, watching football, and spending time with his cat Snowy (who firmly believes *he* should be the real star of every show)



Laurel Cochran - Snowflake, Marzipan Shepherdess - is 23 and from Olympia WA. She started her ballet journey at Johansen Olympia Dance Center and continued training with CBA. Her favorite role was Snow Queen in 2019. In her free time, she can be found playing video games and sewing cosplays.



Rebecca Fogde - Head Maid, Chef Ginger - is 16 years old and a Sophomore at W F West High School. Rebecca has trained in dance for the past seven years, first at Southwest Washington Dance Center and then at CBA. Her favorite role she has ever played is Chef Ginger. Rebeccaplans to become an ER physician or a biology teacher. She also recently choreographed *Beetlejuice, the Musical* for W.F. West High School. "Sequins are forever." - Taylor Swift



Aurora Foote (Company Apprentice) - Clara's Best Friend - is in her first year as a company member and her fourth year dancing with Centralia Ballet Academy. She is a homeschooled 6th grader. Her favorite role she has performed was that of the skeletons in 2024's Ballet Spooktacular and she is so excited to have more roles in future Spooktaculars. In Aurora's spare time, she enjoys being feral on her farm with her siblings and friends..



Elsa Freeberg - Snowflake, Spanish- is a Junior at Rochester High School. She received her training from Centralia Ballet Academy. Her favorite roles have included the Black Cat from Peter and the Werewolf (Spooktacular 2025) and Chef Ginger in *The Nutcracker*. Elsa plans to be a school psychologist and hopes to help in little kids ballet classes



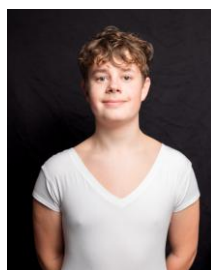
Samantha Gunter - Snowflake, Spanish - is a homeschooled 10th grader from Chehalis. She has been dancing at CBA most of her life, training in ballet, tap, jazz, and lyrical. Some of her favorite roles include Spanish in *The Nutcracker* and the White Cat in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Samantha hopes to attend Tisch at NYU and become a professional actress. When she is not dancing, she enjoys doing theatre, hanging out with friends and drawing.



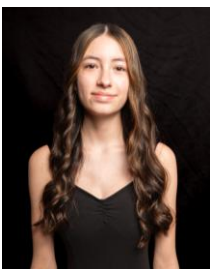
Emma Hashagen Snowflake, Chinese lead - lives in Centralia and is a homeschooled Sophomore. She began dancing at the age of 3 at Allen Creek Dance Studio and moved to Centralia Ballet Academy when she was 6 years old. She is currently taking classes in ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz and tap. Her favorite role so far has been Clara in Centralia Ballet Academy's production of *The Nutcracker* in 2023. Emma attended the 2024 Northwest Dance Intensive, as well as an intensive at Oregon Ballet Theatre. She would like to thank her teachers, peers, and parents for supporting her.



Delilah Newberry (Company Apprentice) - Party Girl - is from Chehalis. She is homeschooled and currently in 7th grade. All of her dance training has been at Centralia Ballet Academy. Her favorite role so far has been that of a Garland Waltz dancer in last spring's production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. She wants to thank Nancy for all of the extra time she put in over the summer, prepping her for this year. After she graduates high school, Delilah wants to be a ballet teacher.



Carter P. Johnston - Nephew/Nutcracker, Spanish- lives in Tumwater, WA and is a freshman at Olympia High School. He first became interested in ballet when he saw a performance of CBA boys at the Olympia Dance Festival. He started taking classes with CBA at age 6 and has never stopped. He has held many roles in CBA shows including playing the Nutcracker in 2022.



Lily Lennox Snowflake, Dewdrop Fairy - is a tenth grader who attends Centralia High School and she has been dancing with Centralia Ballet Academy since she was three. Her favorite role she has ever had is Clara from the *Nutcracker*. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her friends and family, play volleyball or golf, and much more. She gives thanks to her family, friends, and dance teachers for supporting her along her journey in dance and she appreciates them all



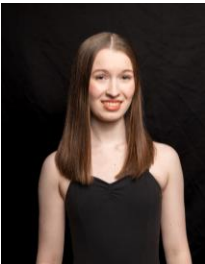
Lucy Lennox - Ballerina Doll, Lead Flower - is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Centralia Middle School. she has been dancing at centralia ballet academy since she was 4 years old. her favorite roll that she has danced is Clara in the nutcracker. She also enjoys hanging out with friends, playing volleyball, and watching movies.



Thalia Martinez - Columbine Doll, Lead Flower - is 14 years old and a 8th grader at Chehalis Middle School. She has been dancing at CBA for 6 years. Her favorite roles so far have been Clara in *The Nutcracker* and Cinderella in *The Sleeping Beauty*. She would like to thank her family, friends and dance teachers who have helped her along the way. Other than ballet, she enjoys hanging out with friends and family and watching movies. Also listening to Morgan Wallen.



Aris Rajala - Snowflake, Sous-Chef, Arabian - has lived in Washington her whole life and has been surrounded by the theater world for it all. Aris went to Centralia College for ballroom dance with Marie Kiser from the ages of 12-18. She received most of her dance training at Allen Creek Dance Studio in Napavine from the ages of 7-18. Aris began assisting with classes and then teaching while at Allen Creek, falling in love with it all, watching and helping kids understand how to move their bodies and express without words. Outside of her teaching and dance career, Aris enjoys video gaming, hiking and scuba diving. Aris would like to thank Nancy Gray for inspiring her love for dance and teaching and providing opportunities to grow, as well as Mick and Nancy Gunter for continuing that growth and being fantastic bosses providing an amazing dance education and welcoming studio.



Briana Smith - Snow Queen, Spanish - is a Freshman at W F West High School and has been dancing with Centralia Ballet Academy for the last eight years. Her favorite roles have been the Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker* and Princess Florine in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Briana also loves theater, singing and playing the oboe. She hopes to continue dancing and choreographing fore rest of her life.



Lydia Smith - Snowflake, Arabian, Sugar Plum Fairy - is a Senior at W. F. West High School. She began dancing at age 5 and transferred to Centralia Ballet Academy in fifth grade. Her favorite roles she has danced are the Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara and Princess Aurora. Lydia also does choir and theatre, performing as Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* with Tenino Young-at-Heart Theatre this past summer. Next year, Lydia plans to be in college studying genetics and cell biology. She would like to thank her fmaily for always loving and supporting her. .



Amelia White (Company Apprentice) - Owl, Flower - was raised in Washington state. She has been homeschooled most of her life and is currently in 7th grade. her interest in ballet started at an early age while watching her mother teacher her older sisters how to dance. However, she didn't begin taking ballet classes herself until fall of 2023 when she started at Centralia Ballet Academy. Since them, her love for ballet has only grown and she looks forward to having a professional career in the art form.



Adeline Wilhelmi - Snowflake, Arabian- is from Centralia, WA. She is currently in 11th grade. Adeline started dancing at the age of 7 at Johansen Olympia Dance Center, switching to CBA at age 12. Outside of dance, Addie loves all kinds of arts, such as painting, drawing and crafting and hopes to become an illustrator.



Jamiah Wood - Snowflake, Arabian, Sugar Plum Fairy - is 16 years old and a sophomore at W.F. West High School. She has been dancing for 10 years at Centralia Ballet Academy. Jamiah has attended a few summer intensives at other dance schools including Bennyroyce Dance, Ballet Austin, and Oregon Ballet Theatre. Her favorite role she has danced was the Dewdrop Fairy in *The Nutcracker*.

Company headshots by Karl Penn

www.centraliaballet.com

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Happy Holidays!