



Preserving
The Nutcracker
for
Our Children
and Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Garden City Ballet
Caroline Kurz, Administrative Director
Email: info@gardencityballet.org
Website: www.gardencityballet.org

[Missoula, Montana, 4/30/19]

A Local Holiday Tradition — *Celebrating 35 Years!*

Garden City Ballet (GCB) proudly announces its 35th season of **The Nutcracker!** This is truly a community event as dancers from all Missoula studios (Ballet Arts Academy, Downtown Dance Collective, On Center Performing Arts, Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre, Show Tyme), plus the UM School of Theatre and Dance, are invited to audition in September.



(Michele Antonioli)

Following the decision of Jordan Dehline Burt to step down as Artistic Director in order to focus on her family, audiences will experience timeless choreography under the direction of returning Artistic Director **Michele Antonioli** (Professor, University of Montana, and Artistic Director, Ballet Arts Academy). Assistant Director **Marie Barnett** and veteran choreographers/directors (Heather Adams, Pam Copley, and Colleen Rosbarsky) join this year's Artistic Team.

Professional guest artists **Ashley DeGroot** (born and raised in Missoula) and **Troy Herring** will take the stage for a third consecutive season dancing the roles of *Sugar Plum Fairy* and *Cavalier*.

Costume Designer Amy Brown will unveil a new suite of Tea Corps costumes, and we are planning to surprise audiences with additional exciting costume upgrades as well.

"I am very excited to have another opportunity to be a part of this beautiful production and the Nutcracker community. It is an honor to share this new adventure with Marie Barnett, Jes Mulette and three of Garden City Ballet's former artistic directors. I can't imagine a better way to celebrate our 35th anniversary!"

— Michele Antonioli, Artistic Director

Every year, GCB proudly gives back to our community! We offer a **free matinee Nutcracker performance** exclusively for K-8 students in Missoula and surrounding rural areas (reaching more than 9,500 children so far), and we operate a **scholarship program** to support the education of our local dancers (awarding over \$48,000 to students attending summer dance workshops nationwide). These programs are made possible through generous donations from businesses and individuals in our community — thank you to our amazing donors!

We invite you to kick-off your holiday season with *The Nutcracker!* 2019 performances will be held on **December 13** (7:30pm), **December 14** (2:00pm and 7:30pm) and **December 15** (2:00pm and 6:00pm) in the Montana Theatre (PAR-TV Building) on the University of Montana campus. **Tickets will go on sale in October** and may be purchased online (www.griztix.com), by phone (888-MONTANA), or at these GrizTix locations: Adams Center, Worden's Market, Southgate Mall, and MSO Hub. All seats are reserved. [END]

For more information, please visit: www.gardencityballet.org