

12/26/17

Dear Nutcracker Community,

I would like to thank you all for an amazing Nutcracker this year. Not only was the production lovely thanks to beautiful choreography, stunning dancers, magical lights and incredible staff and parental support, but the atmosphere of support, commitment and authentic joy was unparalleled in my experience. It has been a gift to be a part of this extraordinary endeavor. There are few opportunities in life that are richer or more rewarding than spending time with dancers in the rehearsal studio and the theatre. We do something unique and wonderful and I think that is why the children look forward to next years' Nutcracker even as this years' Nutcracker is ending. I have cherished every moment and I am honored to have been able to serve as the artistic director for a few years. And, I'm also excited to be able to step away from this role and let someone new take charge! It is time for someone with a new vision for the organization and the production to get a chance to lead.

I let the GCB board know that the 2017 production of The Nutcracker was the last one that I would participate in as artistic director. I am not leaving Missoula. I am not retiring from teaching. I am in no way stepping away from my commitment to and my love for this organization. I am ready for a few weekends in the fall when I can feel free to visit my grandchildren!

Thanks again for giving me the chance to spend my time making dance, making art, making beauty and sharing all of this with wonderful children, parents, adult performers, choreographers and all who make Nutcracker what it is. I am truly blessed.

With much love and gratitude,
Michele

While I dance I can not judge, I can not hate, I can not separate myself from life. I can only be joyful and whole. This is why I dance. —Hans Bos