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Upcoming CAPA 'Nutcracker' vows to wow

Submitted by Lynn Davis



Join Clara as her Christmas Eve dream comes true and snow falls onstage, a magical Christmas tree grows and grows, an army of mice battle toy soldiers and sumptuous treats and toys come to life in the California Academy of Performing Arts presentation of "The Nutcracker" at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center from Dec. 15-17.

This Lamorinda family tradition for 25 years is a feast for the eyes, filled with surprises and delights for all ages. The story is narrated as it unfolds, guiding young viewers through the beautiful ballet and making it much more enjoyable for little ones (and grown-ups) who might not be familiar with the timeless story of Clara and her magical Christmas Eve dream.

California Academy of Performing Arts performers from "The Nutcracker." Photo Kate Fim

Anything is possible with enough talent and enthusiasm, and both are abundant in this extraordinary group of young dancers. This production is huge, with more than 100 local performers, sumptuous sets, live narration,

and absolutely gorgeous costumes, many of which are hand-sewn in Russia.

While the studio demands excellence and precision in the dancing, it also seeks to involve ballet students of all ages, adding to the spirit of the performances: 6- and 7-year-olds are enchanting as the spun-sugar Christmas angels; and advanced high school ballerinas take on the more demanding, classic roles of the Snow Queen, Rose Queen, and Sugar Plum Fairy. Local high school football players and other athletes even appear as party guests!

Two Performances will be held at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 16 and at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 17 at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the general public are \$20 and can be purchased at www.capashows.eventbrite.com.

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