

SACRAMENTO BALLET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Ballet Announces 2025/26 Season: Bold Visions and Timeless Classics

Sacramento Ballet proudly unveils its highly anticipated 2025/26 Season. Following the triumph of the 70th Anniversary Season, this year promises an extraordinary mix of breathtaking artistry, innovative choreography, and unforgettable performances. With the generous support of Season Sponsors **Western Health Advantage** and **Dignity Health**, the 2025/26 Season invites audiences to witness the magic of both beloved classics and daring new works.

“Our 2024/25 Season was a milestone for us as we celebrated the legacy of Sacramento Ballet while embracing bold, new dance works,” said Board President Alyssa Paoletti. “With the 2025/26 Season, we’re continuing to build on that momentum by showcasing our dancers’ exceptional talent, reimagining a classic fairytale, and pushing the boundaries of ballet through collaborations with some of the world’s most exciting choreographers.”

The 2025/26 Mainstage Season includes:

Connections – October 24-November 2, 2025

The season kicks off with an intimate, mixed-repertoire performance featuring the powerful voices of choreographers closely connected to Sacramento Ballet: Artistic Rehearsal Director Stefan Calka, R. Colby Damon, and Company Artist Julia Feldman. The program explores fresh perspectives and bold new works, celebrating innovation in ballet. To toast the start of the 2025/26 Season, a special reception will be held before each performance.

“It’s always an honor to get to create on the company,” said Feldman, who has been a member since 2010, and has choreographed numerous works on Sacramento Ballet. “I’m incredibly inspired by the artists in this company, and excited to make a piece that celebrates their strength, artistry, and complexity.”

Calka’s new work will be a meditation on human connection, exploring its emotional, physical, and ethereal dimensions. “Creating new work is always a dialogue,” said Calka. “It’s about finding meaning through movement and shaping moments that reflect both the individuality of the artists and the spirit of the piece.”

Damon's new work will explore themes of human consciousness. "Sacramento Ballet was where I got my start as a choreographer," said Damon, a former company dancer who has worked with numerous ballet companies and dance institutions across the nation, including BalletX, Opera Philadelphia, and American Repertory Ballet. "I'm really excited to create a new work on the company, and share my movement style and vision with the Sacramento community."

***Nutcracker* sponsored by California Walnuts – December 12-21, 2025**

Sacramento Ballet's beloved holiday tradition returns with a spectacular production of *Nutcracker*, featuring live music by the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera. This magical performance is sure to enchant audiences of all ages and will become a treasured part of your holiday season.

Sacramento Ballet's *Nutcracker* features the talents of hundreds of young dancers from across our capital region. Each year these young dancers ensure that Sacramento Ballet's *Nutcracker* still has a hometown feel as they dance the roles of shooting stars, candy canes, mice, toy soldiers, party children and more.

***Sleeping Beauty* sponsored by Jim Hargrove – February 13-15, 2026**

Join Sacramento Ballet for an enchanting journey into the world of magic, curses, and triumph with this timeless fairytale, *Sleeping Beauty*, Valentine's weekend. Directed by Rehearsal Directors Elise Elliott and Stefan Calka, and set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live by the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, this full-length ballet promises to be a captivating experience for audiences of all ages.

"I'm especially excited to bring *Sleeping Beauty* to life for Sacramento audiences," says Elliott. "This ballet holds a special place in my heart, and I'm eager to reimagine this timeless story in a way that speaks to our diverse, modern audience while honoring its classical roots. It's going to be a magical experience for all ages."

To make the performance even more magical, attendees are invited to dress as their favorite characters from the ballet—Aurora, the prince, fairies, or even Carabosse. The Saturday afternoon show will feature a special lobby celebration, including photo ops, runway walks, exciting prizes, and more!

***Visions* – March 20-22, 2026**

Visions will showcase the cutting-edge choreography of tomorrow's brightest stars, including the return of Caili Quan's *Love Me Anyway*, the Sacramento premiere of Ihsan

Rustem's *Mother Tongue*, and a new world premiere to be announced. This program celebrates boundary-pushing work that exemplifies the future of ballet.

Caili Quan, one of the most sought-after choreographers emerging from New York, has created works for New York City Ballet, Ballet West, and The Juilliard School, and is celebrated for her vibrant, musical, and delightfully offbeat style. Ihsan Rustem, whose *State of Matter* captivated Sacramento audiences in 2024, returns with his signature blend of fluid floor-work and raw, emotional power. Together, these choreographers represent the thrilling edge of contemporary ballet, bringing bold, current artistic voices to California's cultural stage.

Beer & Ballet – May 28-31, 2026

The season will culminate with Sacramento Ballet's annual *Beer & Ballet* performance, where company artists step into the role of choreographer, creating original works on their fellow dancers. This truly unique experience that offers a rare glimpse into the creative process while celebrating collaboration, artistry, and community. Audience members will receive a complimentary drink from **Bike Dog Brewing**, adding a festive touch to this one-of-a-kind event.

Dates and Times

***Connections* – October 24-November 2, 2025**

CLARA, Sacramento, CA

- Friday, October 24, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM
- Friday, October 31, 2025, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM

***Nutcracker* sponsored by California Walnuts – December 12-21, 2025**

SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, Sacramento, CA

- Friday, December 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM
- Friday, December 19, 2025, at 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM

***Sleeping Beauty* sponsored by Jim Hargrove – February 13-15, 2026**

SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, Sacramento, CA

- Friday, February 13, 2026, at 7:30 PM

- Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Visions – March 20-22, 2026

The Sofia, Home of B Street, Sacramento, CA

- Friday, March 20, 2026, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Beer & Ballet sponsored by Bike Dog Brewing – May 28-31, 2026

The Sofia, Home of B Street, Sacramento, CA

- Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 7:30 PM
- Friday, May 29, 2026, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 2:00 PM

HOW:

Single Tickets are available now at sacballet.org or by calling the Sacramento Ballet box office at (916) 552-5810.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Sacramento Ballet is more than a performing arts organization; it is an engine for growth, connection, and vitality in California's capital. The arts generate significant economic activity, supporting local businesses, restaurants, and hospitality industries while drawing visitors from across the state. Beyond dollars and cents, cultural institutions like Sacramento Ballet increase the quality of life within their communities by fostering creativity, empathy, and shared cultural experiences that bring people together across backgrounds.

As one of California's leading professional ballet companies, Sacramento Ballet proudly represents our region on local, national, and international stages. Each performance is not only a testament to the power of dance, but also to Sacramento's place within a thriving global cultural conversation. By investing in the arts, we invest in a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant community.

ABOUT SACRAMENTO BALLET:

Sacramento Ballet's mission is to enhance the human condition through dance and to make it accessible to everyone. As the region's only professional dance company, Sacramento Ballet brings world-renowned dancers and choreographers to create groundbreaking work, while showcasing California's vibrant cultural landscape both locally and internationally.

Founded in 1954, Sacramento Ballet has remained a beacon of artistic excellence, offering innovative performances, educational programs, and community outreach. With support from individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government entities, Sacramento Ballet continues to inspire audiences through performances and initiatives that leave a lasting impact on the region.

For more information, visit sacballet.org.

Sacramento Ballet's 2025/26 Season is made possible through the generous support of our Season Sponsors:



As well as production sponsors:
California Walnuts, Jim Hargrove, Bike Dog Brewing

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