

SACRAMENTO BALLET NUTCRACKER

**MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SACRAMENTO BALLET'S NUTCRACKER CELEBRATES HOLIDAY MAGIC, FAMILY TRADITIONS, AND THE COMPANY'S 70TH YEAR

*Beloved Production Returns with 250+ Local Children
Cast as Mice, Mushrooms, Peppermints, and Shooting Stars*

Presenting Sponsor California Walnuts Extends Nutcracker Excitement Through Retail Experiences and Online Campaigns – #ANuttyHolidayTradition

WHAT: Sacramento Ballet's family-favorite Nutcracker (December 13-22, 2024) returns with new costumes and wardrobe enhancements that honor its rich history and keep the production fresh for future generations. The Company is celebrating 70 years and this year's Nutcracker performances promise to excite and enchant Northern California audiences with evening and matinee shows across three festive weeks. Last year's production captivated capacity crowds and the dynamic choreography—crafted by Sacramento Ballet Company current and alumni artists [Colby Damon](#), [Julia Feldman](#) and [Nicole Haskins](#)—continues to showcase the artistry and community spirit that make Nutcracker a cherished holiday tradition. Returning Presenting Sponsor California Walnuts will bring back festive lobby experiences, including the popular "Guess the Walnuts" contest, family photo ops, and "Clara's Corner" souvenir shop.

"We're overjoyed to celebrate Nutcracker in our 70th Season with the unwavering support of California Walnuts as our presenting sponsor," said Anthony Krutzkamp, Artistic and Executive Director of Sacramento Ballet. "This milestone wouldn't be possible without the warm embrace of the Sacramento community and families from across Northern California who make Sacramento Ballet's Nutcracker a treasured local yuletide tradition year after year. We are deeply grateful to the City of Sacramento and our patrons for helping us bring this magical production to life for generations of families to enjoy."

Sacramento Ballet's professional Company and Second Company dancers provide real-time inspiration for the 250-plus local Sacramento youth performers who will take to the stage this year — many for the first time. Fans can expect to see youth cast members dance the roles of beloved Nutcracker characters including Shooting Stars, Mother Ginger's Children, Peppermints, Mice, Mushrooms, Party Boys and Girls as well as the ever-popular Baby Bunny. Every Nutcracker performance this year will feature a live orchestra by Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera.

"California Walnuts is honored to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Sacramento Ballet's

beloved Nutcracker,” said Robert Verloop, CEO of the California Walnut Commission. “This production has become as much a holiday staple as walnuts themselves, and with so many of our walnut growers calling the Sacramento area home, we’re thrilled to continue supporting this cherished family tradition for another festive season.” New this year, California Walnuts' retail partner Nugget Market joins in spreading the holiday magic of Sacramento Ballet's Nutcracker. Through in-store displays, digital promotions, and exclusive co-promotions with California Walnuts, Nugget Market will engage with shoppers and encourage them to attend this season's enchanting Nutcracker performances.

Sacramento Ballet's Nutcracker 2024 will feature:

- Original choreography from three, nationally-recognized, hometown Sacramento Ballet artists (Colby Damon, Julia Feldman and Nicole Haskins)
- International dance professionals
- Classic sets by designer Alain Vaes; lighting design by Trad Burns
- Live orchestra every night from Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera
- Multiple lobby photo opportunities including giant-sized, larger-than-life 12-foot-tall Nutcracker soldier statue as well as strolling costumed ballerinas
- Coinciding with Sacramento Ballet's Nutcracker performances, attendees can expect special lobby activities on-site courtesy of presenting sponsor California Walnuts including:
 - “Guess the Walnuts” display contest
 - Nutcracker & Romeo & Juliet ticket giveaways on California Walnuts & Sacramento Ballet social feeds, hashtags #ANuttyHolidayTradition, #SacramentoBalletNutcracker, #SacramentoBallet, and #CaWalnuts:
 - Facebook: [@cawalnuts](#), [@SacBallet](#)
 - Instagram: [@cawalnuts](#), [@SacBallet](#)
 - TikTok: [@cawalnuts](#)
 - YouTube: [@cawalnuts](#), [@SacBallet](#)

WHEN: December 13-22, 2024

WHERE: Nutcracker will be presented at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information on the venue: <https://safecreditunionconventioncenter.com/facilities/performing-arts-center>

HOW: Tickets are selling fast for SacBallet's Nutcracker performances, December 13-22, 2024. Season & Individual tickets available now. For details call the Sacramento Ballet box office: (916) 552-5810
Box office hours: Monday - Friday, 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
<https://www.sacballet.org/events/nutcracker/>

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Sacramento Ballet delivers high-quality, world stage-worthy ballet, dance, education, and outreach initiatives. A modern, forward-leaning organization which respects its past while welcoming the future, Sacramento Ballet aims to unite, include and inspire diverse audiences. Connecting cultures with the positive power of live dance performance, Sacramento Ballet expands its audiences through regional programming, community connections and educational activities.

Guided by Artistic/Executive Director Anthony Krutzkamp—an innovative artist choreographer who raised the image and reputation of the Kansas City Dance Festival, Moving Arts Kansas City, Moving Arts Cincinnati—as well as Sacramento Ballet’s lauded Swan Lake, Cinderella, and creation of its annual Visions dance series to bring in-demand choreographers and visionary productions to Sacramento.

ABOUT SACRAMENTO BALLET

A highly regarded cultural asset renowned for artistic quality, Sacramento Ballet tens of thousands of people to performances annually. Deeply committed to the Capitol region for 70 years, it conducts extensive outreach, educational and public engagement projects. It is the only local arts organization to maintain a residency of professional artists attached to a respected conservatory of dance: School of Sacramento Ballet. Sacramento Ballet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, funded by ticket sales, individual donations, corporate, foundation, and government support. Sacramento Ballet’s world class programming demonstrates its agility, commitment and dedication to the arts. For more information visit www.sacballet.org.

ABOUT SACRAMENTO BALLET’S SECOND COMPANY

Under the direction of acclaimed dancer and respected instructor Jill Krutzkamp, Sacramento Ballet’s Second Company celebrates its third season this year. Second Company is the umbrella company for Trainee Project and its select group of six featured dancers: SB2. A proving ground for pre-professional training, distinctive programming and repertoire is specially selected and choreographed for them. Twenty classically trained, aspiring artists who auditioned to join Second Company regularly perform with the company, while they train and hone their skills for careers with major dance companies. Sacramento Ballet’s respected reputation for professional career development is attracting young dancers from across the U.S. and California. Second Company has already inspired expanded audiences with the passion and drive of these young dancers as they grow and gain the skills and confidence necessary for a life career in dance.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA WALNUTS

More than 99% of the walnuts grown in the United States are from California, produced by multi-generational farmers encompassing 4,000 family orchards. California walnuts, known for their excellent nutritional value and quality, are shipped around the world all year long. With the focus on plant-forward eating, walnuts are enjoyed in a variety of

innovative and delicious ways, such as a plant-based meat alternative, walnut milk and walnut butter. They are recognized as a versatile and nutritious snack, a topper for yogurt and oatmeal, and the perfect nut to pair with salads and vegetables. To explore recipes and learn more about California walnut growers, industry information and health research, visit walnuts.org.

Sacramento Ballet's 2024/25 Season Sponsors:
WESTERN HEALTH ADVANTAGE
DIGNITY HEALTH

Photos Available on Request

For more information, contact:

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