

# SACRAMENTO BALLET

MEDIA ALERT

## EN-POINTE, INNOVATIVE & VISIONARY 2023/24 SEASON ESCAPE DANCES SACRAMENTO BALLET FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

New Commissions, Modern Choreography Complement Classic Traditions

**WHAT:** (September 29, 2023 - May 21, 2024) Sacramento Ballet has unveiled its enticing 2023/24 season titled *Escape* featuring the long-awaited return of Sergei Prokofiev's 1945 classic *Cinderella*, with modern choreography by acclaimed Nashville Ballet artistic director Paul Vasterling. Sacramento's beloved holiday hometown *Nutcracker* returns along with cutting-edge programming via *Visions* and *Innovations*. The season opens with SacBallet's 30th anniversary of its popular and much-anticipated *Beer & Ballet* series, celebrating the work of the company's own rising dancer-choreographers.

*"2022/23 was a landmark year for Sacramento Ballet, a moment of putting the pandemic in the past and emerging in full strength,"* said SacBallet Artistic/Executive Director Anthony Krutzkamp. *"Our 2023/24 season takes the company further with fresh staging, enhanced lighting design, splendid costuming, and works from highly desired choreographers. The skill and athleticism of our dancers lets us challenge them with increasingly sophisticated yet playful choreography. SacBallet will deliver exciting new dance works alongside family favorites like Nutcracker and Cinderella. Our performances will surprise and entertain fans of all ages."*

SacBallet welcomes six new dancers to its professional stages in the 2023/24 season including Maxine Devaux, Enrico Hipolito, Maia Lee, Erika Patterson, Julia Payne and Sarah Joan Smith.

**WHEN:** September 28, 2023 - May 21, 2024

***Beer & Ballet, Sept. 29 - Oct. 8, 2023***— SacBallet's beloved *Beer & Ballet* kicks-off the season, a fun, challenging company warm-up after a summer hiatus. Featuring new works from SacBallet's own dancer-choreographers, details will be announced closer to performances. Sponsored by Sacramento's popular Bike Dog Brewery, one draft beer or glass of wine is included with each ticket. Beverage and food truck purchases at shows help fundraise for SacBallet. Performances will be at SacBallet Studios' James Hargrove Outdoor Performance Stage (J-HOPS) at CLARA in Midtown.

***Nutcracker, Dec. 9-23, 2023***—SacBallet's beloved hometown *Nutcracker* promises to excite and wow audiences. Last year's performances of Tchaikovsky's classic sold out many shows, playing to capacity houses. This year's production again features choreography by SacBallet alumni [Nicole Haskins](#), [Colby Damon](#) & [Julia Feldman](#). [California Walnuts](#) returns as *Nutcracker 2023* Presenting Sponsor! Special lobby experiences, giveaways and surprises to be announced.

— more —

***Cinderella*, Feb. 16-18, 2024** — Sergei Prokofiev’s majestic, playful ballet *Cinderella* receives a modern update with acclaimed choreography by Nashville Ballet’s Paul Vasterling. His approach leverages the work’s iconic traditions and feature comic double-roles (for example, stepmother and stepsisters may be performed by male dancers performing *en pointe*). Innovative new dance movements complement spectacular 18<sup>th</sup>-century costumes and sets. Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera will perform the gorgeous 1945 score live.

***Visions*, Mar. 22-24, 2024** — SacBallet continues its popular, acclaimed *Visions* series featuring new commissions and company premieres delivering stunning beauty and motion from today’s most in-demand, award-winning choreographers:

- Northern California’s own [Marika Brussel](#), renowned for forward-leaning, contemporary explorations of personal stories, plays and mythology, will create a world premiere.
- Switzerland’s [Ihsan Rustem](#) built *State Of Matter* around Benjamin Wardell’s poem “The Clouds Inside,” with mesmerizing movement representing life journeys often beyond our control.
- Richmond Ballet’s Associate Artistic Director and world-renowned choreographer [Ma Cong](#) brings *Carry Me Anew* to Sacramento for the first time.

***Innovations*, May 17-21, 2024** — Capping the season will be a new series, *Innovations*, a remarkable bill of in-demand works including:

- [Val Caniparoli](#)’s *Ibsen’s House* ballet, weaves a ballet around five female characters from Norwegian Henrik Ibsen’s late-1800s plays which challenged gender role conventions.
- Louisville Ballet’s resident choreographer [Andrea Schermoly](#) is creating a world premiere for SacBallet. Known for innovative reimagining of classic works such as Martha Graham’s *Appalachian Spring* and an arctic take on Stravinsky’s *Rite Of Spring*, her most recent sensation was a new twist on *Romeo & Juliet* for Royal New Zealand Ballet.
- Sacramento Ballet continues its time-honored connection with the [George Balanchine Trust](#) and will present a special surprise work to be announced closer to the performances.

**WHERE:**

***Beer & Ballet*** will be held on the James Hargrove Outdoor Performance Stage (J-HOPS) at SacBallet Studios at CLARA in midtown, 2420 N Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information: <https://www.sacballet.org/>

***Nutcracker & Cinderella*** will be presented at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information:

<https://safecreditunionconventioncenter.com/Facility/PerformingArtsCenter>

— more —

***Visions and Innovations*** will be held at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA.

For more information: <https://bstreettheatre.org/>

#### **HOW: TICKETING INFORMATION**

Individual ticket sales begin on August 1, 2023. Full season subscription tickets are still available to save the best seats. For more information, please call the box office at 916-552-5810 or visit:

<https://sacballet.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/subscriptions>

#### **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 its diverse audiences. Connecting cultures with the positive power of live dance performance, it expands its reach to audiences via regional programming, community outreach and educational activities. Guided by Artistic/Executive Director Anthony Krutzkamp — an innovative choreographer who raised the image and reputation of the Kansas City Dance Festival, Moving Arts Kansas City and Moving Arts Cincinnati — Sacramento Ballet's 2023/24 season promises joyous innovation.

#### **ABOUT SACRAMENTO BALLET**

A highly regarded cultural asset renowned for artistic quality, Sacramento Ballet attracts approximately 80,000 people to performances annually. Deeply committed to the Capitol region for nearly 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. SacBallet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, funded by ticket sales to its live performances, individual donations, corporate, foundation and government support. Together, this empowers it to deliver world class programming for the community. For more information visit [www.sacballet.org](http://www.sacballet.org).

#### **ABOUT SACRAMENTO BALLET'S SECOND COMPANY**

Under the direction of acclaimed dancer and respected instructor Jill Krutzkamp, Sacramento Ballet's newly formed Second Company launches this season. 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 will be specially selected and choreographed for them. Twenty classically trained, aspiring artists who auditioned to join Second Company will 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 aims to inspire 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.

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Photos available on request.

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