



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SACRAMENTO BALLET'S 2022 HOMETOWN NUTCRACKER FEATURES LOCAL CHOREOGRAPHY, INTERNATIONAL DANCERS, LIVE ORCHESTRA PLUS HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN CAST AS SHOOTING STARS, CANDY CANES & MICE

SacBallet Welcomes New Nutcracker Presenting Sponsor, California Walnuts

SACRAMENTO, Calif., November 10, 2022 — Sacramento Ballet presents its treasured annual holiday celebration set to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* with eight thrilling performances complete with live orchestra running from December 10-24, 2022. This year's *Nutcracker* features fresh local choreography by SacBallet's own alumni [Nicole Haskins](#), [Colby Damon](#) and current artist [Julia Feldman](#). Completing a pitch-perfect match, Nutcracker's new presenting sponsor [California Walnuts](#) is excited to support the Company's artistry on stage by offering attendees delicious samples and tasty holiday recipes.

"We are so pleased to welcome California Walnuts to the SacBallet family, joining as a presenting sponsor of this year's Nutcracker in addition to our longtime supporter, Western Health Advantage," said SacBallet's Artistic/Executive Director, Anthony Krutzkamp. *"These sponsorships and our beloved patrons help ensure we can stage one of our most ambitious, magical Nutcracker productions ever. Our cast of shooting stars, candy canes, soldiers, mice, and party children will dance alongside our professional Company members and our incredibly talented Second Company dancers. These include acclaimed international artists who have come from Japan, France, Australia & the Philippines to dance on SacBallet's stages with our hometown heroes. Nutcracker 2022 promises to be our most glorious production to date including a live orchestra at every performance!"*

“California walnut growers are proud to support the time-honored tradition of Nutcracker in Sacramento,” said Robert Verloop, CEO of California Walnuts. *“The Nutcracker ballet and toy soldier figurines have long been associated with the magic of the season when families come together to celebrate the joy of the holidays. Walnuts, harvested in the fall, are likewise a celebrated tradition often included as part of holiday meals and snacking. There is no better combination than mixing magnificent Nutcracker performances by Sacramento Ballet with another local homegrown favorite: the nutritious, versatile California walnut.”*

SacBallet’s *Nutcracker* 2022 will feature:

- Classic sets by legendary designer Alain Vaes, lighting design by Trad Burns (Walt Disney World, *The Wizard of Oz* ballet)
- Fresh choreography from three, nationally-recognized, SacBallet hometown artists, alumni ([Nicole Haskins](#), [Colby Damon](#), and current artist [Julia Feldman](#))
- Artistic / Executive Director [Anthony Krutzkamp](#)'s vision for *Nutcracker 2022* as a uniquely hometown ballet: *choreography made in Sacramento*
- Live orchestra from Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, [Andrew Grams](#) conducting presented at [all](#) *Nutcracker* performances this year
- Company dance professionals from around the world
- SacBallet’s official *Nutcracker* logo with Sacramento's city skyline in the soldier’s helmet!
- Giant-sized, larger-than-life 12-foot-tall *Nutcracker* soldier statue in the theater lobby for festive holiday selfies!

Coinciding with SacBallet's *Nutcracker* performances, attendees can expect special lobby activities on-site courtesy of presenting sponsor California Walnuts including:

- Selfie backdrops for fan photos
- Contests: Guess the number of California Walnuts in a display
- Free California Walnuts snack packs
- Nutcracker ticket giveaway via California Walnuts' social media outlets:
 - Twitter: [@cawalnuts](https://twitter.com/cawalnuts)
 - Facebook: [@cawalnuts](https://facebook.com/cawalnuts)
 - Instagram [@cawalnuts](https://instagram.com/cawalnuts)

Be sure to get your tickets for the whole family for SacBallet's *Nutcracker* performances, December 10-24, 2022. Season & individual tickets are available now. *Nutcracker* will be presented at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information, please visit:

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

For more details or to call the SacBallet box office (916-552-5810):

<https://www.sacballet.org/performances/season-performances/>

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 68th season will be unforgettable.

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 artists as well as maintaining a respected conservatory of dance — School of Sacramento Ballet — enabling it to deliver world class programming for the community. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, it is funded by individual donations, corporate, foundation and government support. 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 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.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA WALNUTS

More than 99% of the walnuts grown in the United States are from California, produced by multi-generational farmers encompassing 4000 family orchards. California walnuts, known for their excellent nutritional value and quality, are shipped around the world all year long. They are recognized as a versatile and nutritious snack, a topper for yogurt, oatmeal and salads and vegetables. With the focus on plant-forward eating, they are used in new innovative and delicious ways such as a plant-based meat substitute, walnut pesto and walnut butter. To explore recipes and learn more about California walnut growers, visit walnuts.org.

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Photos Available on Request

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