

Dance Kids of Monterey County and the
Monterey County POPS!

Nutcracker

2017 Information Packet



Welcome

Welcome to Dance Kids' 24th Annual Performance of Nutcracker at Carmel's historic Sunset Center. We are so pleased that your young performer is returning or joining us for the first time. We've put this information booklet together for you in the hopes of sharing important production information with you prior to auditions, rehearsals, and our performances. While we've tried to be comprehensive, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

About this Year's Production

After several years of revamping sets and costumes, Dance Kids will kick off its Silver Anniversary Celebration Year with 'Nutcracker: A Monterey Peninsula Tradition' in December at Carmel's Sunset Center, and feature, along with the cast of the ballet, a complete 39-member symphony orchestra performing Tchaikovsky's familiar holiday score. The 39-member Monterey County Pops!, conducted by Dr. Carl Christensen, will perform in the orchestra pit at Sunset Center with Dance Kids dancers on stage in the annual full-length holiday ballet.

About Dance Kids of Monterey County

"Giving children a better understanding of their world through the arts."

Dance Kids of Monterey County was founded in 1993 as a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing opportunities in dance and theater to the youth of Monterey County. Our mission is to strengthen character and positively influence children's lives through the performing arts. We seek to fulfill this mission through our various programs, including our annual Nutcracker performance, Cascanuaces: A Latino Nutcracker, Upward Bound, and our newest program, Xpress Yourself.



About the Monterey Pops!

Monterey County Pops! was founded in 1985 and not only provides to the community free, public pops-and-patriotic concerts on holidays, but is the only orchestra in Monterey County that provides a tuition-free, professional performance experience for disadvantaged students in their own communities.

Last year 175 young, underserved performers collaborated with the orchestra to create six professional-quality performances. Over 6,700 audience members enjoyed these performances.



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Calendar of Important Events

Auditions – Bring completed audition form, medical release form, and audition fee. Location: Carmel Academy of Performing Arts: 8th & Mission, Carmel, CA 1:30pm Registration 1:45-2:30pm All Boys 2:30-3:30pm Ages 3 to 7 3:15-4:15pm Ages 8 to 10 4:00-5:00pm Ages 11 to 12 4:45-5:15pm All interested Adults 5:00-6:30pm Ages 13 to 14 (<i>with or without pointe shoes</i>) 6:00-7pm Ages 15 and up (<i>with or without pointe shoes</i>) 7pm Call Backs	Sept. 9, 2017
Cast List Posted	Sept. 11, 2017
Mandatory Choreography	Sept. 15- 17, 2017
Rehearsals Begin	Sept. 22, 2017
Financial Need Scholarship Applications Due	Sept. 23, 2017
MPC Forms Deadline (select performers)	Sept. 23, 2017
Mandatory Parent Meeting 3:30pm; Dance Kids Office, Sunset Center	Sept. 23, 2017
Production Fees Due	Oct. 15, 2017
Sweatshirt Order Forms Due	Oct. 15, 2017
Photo Shoot (select performers)	Oct. 22, 2017
Program Ad Deadline	Nov. 1, 2017
Silent Auction Donation Deadline	Nov. 1, 2017
Nursing Home Performances (select performers)	Nov. 4, 2017
Pre-school Performances (select performers)	TBA

Latino Nutcracker Performances (select performers) Performances at elementary schools throughout the Salinas valley	Nov. 10, 2017
Carmel Tree Lighting	Dec. 1, 2017
Tech Week Sunset Center	Dec. 5-7, 2017
School Matinee Performance 10am; Sunset Center Performance for Monterey County elementary school children	Dec. 8, 2017
Opening Night 7 pm; Sunset Center	Dec. 8, 2017
Gala Fundraising Event 5-6:30pm; Sunset Center, Room 105	Dec. 9, 2017
Saturday Evening Performance 7pm; Sunset Center	Dec. 9, 2017
Sugar Plum Fairy Party 12:15 pm; Sunset Center, Room 105	Dec. 10, 2017
Sunday Matinee Performance 2 pm; Sunset Center	Dec. 10, 2017
Cast Party! 6pm; Il Fornaio, Carmel	Dec. 10, 2017
Carmel Valley Ranch Rehearsal (select performers) 3:30-5pm; Carmel Valley Ranch	Dec. 21, 2017
Carmel Valley Ranch Performance (select performers) Time TBA; Carmel Valley Ranch	Dec. 23, 2017
<i>Our partner, the Monterey Pops! has two upcoming performances this fall.</i> Monterey Pops! Symphony Concert 7pm; Alisal Center for the Fine Arts, Armory, Salinas	Oct. 14, 2017
Monterey Pops! Symphony Concert 7pm; Stanton Theater, King City	Nov. 11, 2017

Audition Form

Dance Kids of Monterey County – Nutcracker 2017
Performance Dates: December 8, 9 & 10, 2017
Sunset Center, Carmel, CA

Performer’s Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Email(s) (print clearly): _____
Please provide us with the best email address(es) so that we may communicate important cast and crew updates.

Address: _____

Telephone: Cell/Home/Work (circle one) _____

Telephone2: Cell/Home/Work (circle one) _____

Performer’s School: _____ Grade: _____

Current Dance School(s), if any: _____

Current *Dance* Lessons (check all that apply)

- Ballet Hours per week _____ Pointe? Y N If yes, date began pointe: _____
- Lyrical Jazz Contemporary Tap
- Other _____

Please list any other performing arts that you are currently involved in (e.g., Drama, Musical Theatre, Voice, Instrument, Gymnastics)

Previous Nutcracker roles

Role	Date	Role	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Roles in Other Productions: _____

Please complete next page.

Consents, Releases, and Acknowledgments (please initial on each line)

Media Release

_____ I consent to the reproduction, sale and/or use of images of my child, recording of my child’s voice and musical performance in which my child may be portrayed for all purposes with or without the use of my name in the production of *Nutcracker 2017* by Dance Kids of Monterey County in all forms of media and in all manners, including advertising, trade, display, editorial and exhibitions.

Fee Information Acknowledgment

_____ I have reviewed and understand the Fee Information (page 10) with respect to Dance Kids’ 2017 Nutcracker performance. I agree to pay the required fees on or before the specified due date. I understand that if fees are not paid timely, the performer may not be able to participate in the production.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available. If you would like us to email you an application for financial assistance, please check this box.

Rehearsal Information Acknowledgment

_____ I have reviewed and understand the Rehearsal Information (page 12) with respect to Dance Kids’ 2017 Nutcracker performance. I understand that performers may be dropped from the production after three unexcused rehearsals.

Please provide us any dates that you know your performer will be unavailable for rehearsals:

Costume Information Acknowledgment

_____ I have reviewed and understand the Costume Information (page 14) with respect to Dance Kids’ 2017 Nutcracker performance.

Family Volunteer Policy Acknowledgment

_____ I have reviewed and understand the Family Volunteer Policy Information (page 15) with respect to Dance Kids’ 2017 Nutcracker performance. I understand that volunteers are critical to the success of the performance and that compliance with this policy is a condition of my child participating in this production.

I’m interested in the following volunteer position(s) (pages 15-17) _____

I am buying out of my volunteer requirement by paying \$400.00 in addition to the audition and production fees. Payable at the time of the audition. Check box, if applicable.

Signature _____

Date _____

Emergency Information, Medical Release and General Waiver

Dance Kids of Monterey County – Nutcracker 2017

Emergency Information

Performer's Name: _____

Physician's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Dentist's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Insurance Co: _____ Policy #: _____

Does your child have any allergies, medical conditions, or physical limitations? YES NO

If yes, please explain _____

In case of emergency contact (please provide at least two contacts)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____ Relationship: _____

I understand that I must leave contact numbers where I may be reached if the above numbers do not apply.

Medical Release and General Waiver

This is a release and waiver of liability for administering medical treatment (hereinafter, referred to as the "release"), by and between Dance Kids of Monterey County, Inc. ("Dance Kids") and

_____ (Parent/Legal Guardian Name) who is the parent and/or legal guardian of _____ (Child's Name).

By signing this release, I authorize any representative of Dance Kids to arrange for medical services for my child should such Dance Kids representative (in his or her sole discretion) deem such services immediately necessary. Such Dance Kids representative shall have the authority to take my child to an appropriate hospital emergency room, doctor's office or care facility, so that my child may receive immediate treatment or care.

By signing this release, I authorize that said representative of Dance Kids, emergency facility, hospital, doctor, or paramedic shall be authorized to perform any and all medical and surgical treatment, x-ray,

laboratory, anesthesia, and any other medical or hospital procedures as may be deemed necessary for the care of my child.

I further authorize that in case of an allergic reaction any representative of Dance Kids shall be authorized to administer medication specified by my child's physician. I release and forever discharge Dance Kids and its employees or agents from any liability arising in law or equity as a result of Dance Kids' or its employees' or agents' administering epinephrine and providing other emergency care in conformance with the child's medical exam forms, provided that Dance Kids has used reasonable care in administering epinephrine and in providing other authorized care in accordance with the medical exam form.

In consideration of my child's participation in Dance Kids' 2017 Nutcracker program, rehearsals, performance or other related activity (the "Program"), I hereby irrevocably and unconditionally release and discharge Dance Kids, its affiliates, parents, and their owners, directors, officers, board members, agents, employees, volunteers, representatives and affiliates (collectively, the "Released Parties"), from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, lawsuits, rights, costs and expenses whatsoever, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees and costs (collectively, "Claims"), in any way arising from or in connection with or relating to my child's participation in the Program including without limitation as a result of any medical treatment administered in connection herewith.

I further acknowledge that I have read and understand Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California, which reads as follows: "A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, successors, assigns and representatives, hereby expressly waive and relinquish all rights and benefits under Civil Code Section 1542 and any law or legal principle or similar effect.

This release shall be governed by the laws of the State of California, which is the location of the Dance Kids facility in which the child is enrolled, excluding its choice of law provisions. The reference in this release to Dance Kids shall include the Dance Kids, its affiliates, successors, directors, officers, employees, and representatives. The term Parent/Legal Guardian shall include the dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and successors of each.

By signing this release, I hereby acknowledge that all medical information submitted to Dance Kids will be shared with appropriate Dance Kids staff and other medical personnel in the event of treatment for my child.

I hereby release Dance Kids, its employees, agents, representatives and board of directors from any and all liability and claims in connection with this authorization and shall take no legal or other action against Dance Kids or such individuals in connection with obtaining or administering emergency medical treatment for my child.

A photocopy of this authorization shall be deemed effective as if it were an original. This authorization shall remain in effect until January 30, 2018.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sweatshirt Order Form

Dance Kids of Monterey County – Nutcracker 2017
Performance Dates: December 8, 9 & 10, 2017
Sunset Center, Carmel, CA

Each year Dance Kids creates a special Nutcracker sweatshirt. A sweatshirt purchase is optional, but many of our performers, family and friends wear their sweatshirts with pride! The 2017 Nutcracker Sweatshirts will be available for purchase for \$32.00 to all cast members, family and friends.

Dance Kids accepts cash and checks (payable to Dance Kids of Monterey County). Orders and payment can be dropped off at the Carmel Academy of Performing Arts, or mailed to Dance Kids of Monterey County, PO Box 6225, Carmel, CA 93921. Credit card payments can be accepted through the Dance Kids website by visiting the Nutcracker page of the Dance Kids website. www.dancekids.org.

Order deadline is October 15, 2017.

Please include payment with this form.

Performer, Crew, Family or Friend Name: _____

Please circle one:

Child Small Child Medium Child Large

Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large

Adult XL Adult 2XL

Fee Information

Like many other performing arts non-profit organizations, ticket sales for Dance Kids' Nutcracker only cover about 40% of production costs. Putting on a high-quality show at the fabulous Sunset Center requires us to raise funds beyond our ticket sales. We do this through corporate sponsorships, grant writing, program ad sales, our auction, and fees. We are working to reduce performers' fees, but we still need fee income to meet our costs of production.

This year the fees for performers are:

Audition Fee: \$20

Production Fee: \$345

Production Fee (ages 6 and under): \$200

Production fee includes cleaning at the conclusion of the performances.

The audition fee is due at the time of audition on **September 9, 2017**.

The production fee is due by **October 15, 2017**, but we encourage families to pay the fee as soon as possible. Please make checks payable to Dance Kids of Monterey County. Checks may be mailed to **Dance Kids of Monterey County**, P.O. Box 6225 Carmel, CA 93921. Dance Kids has a mailbox inside the Carmel Academy of Performing Arts; payments can be left with the CAPA clerk on duty.

Credit card payments can be accepted by visiting the Nutcracker page of the Dance Kids website. www.dancekids.org.

Scholarships: We never want financial need to prevent our young people from performing in Dance Kids' Nutcracker. There are a limited number of financial need scholarships available. To apply for a financial need scholarship, please mark the appropriate box on the application, and we will send you a scholarship form to complete and return. Financial need scholarship forms are due by September 23, 2017.

MPC Registration

One source of funding is a grant from the State of California through Monterey Peninsula College. We can receive a stipend for each performer grades 6-12 that has not previously participated in the MPC Program. Our funding is based upon the number of MPC forms submitted. There is a short required meeting with the MPC representative that eligible students and one parent must attend. Dance Kids will notify eligible students and provide the necessary MPC Forms. Completed forms need to be signed by a school principal or designee for those in Grades 6-12.

Our goal is to receive completed MPC forms on all eligible students. Thank for you for helping secure this additional funding.

Rehearsals

In all styles of dance, repetition is the most critical thing to learning a piece. For a dancer to remember the steps and master the natural look of the movements there is nothing more effective than repetition and rehearsal. When dancers repeat movements over and over, motor memory kicks in and forces muscles to perform tasks without the brain having to work on overload.

In *Nutcracker: A Monterey Tradition*, our choreographer and rehearsal directors have a very clear image of what their piece should look like and the messages to be sent to the audience. Attending scheduled rehearsal is critical to the success of the performance and to ensuring our audiences enjoy the beauty of our dances. Rehearsal time is when our dancers perfect the steps, work on technical execution and combine their creativity with their fellow dancers. We want our students and parents to know that while long hours may be required for rehearsals, it is always for the benefit of the dancer and an essential part of a dancer's education. We expect our dancers to not miss rehearsal, to be on time, and to be respectful to teachers and fellow dancers.

Rehearsal will begin in September and run through the performance dates.

Performers will be excused for illness and extenuating circumstances on an individual basis. Please indicate on the audition form if you plan to be out of town or already have commitment for weekend (Fri-Sun) from September through the performance. **Because rehearsals are so critical to the success of the program, performers with 3 unexcused absences may be dropped from the production at the rehearsal directors' discretion.**

Punctuality is vital. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of rehearsal call time. Be dressed in proper attire including hair, allowing for personal warm up.

Please check in with your rehearsal director upon entering the rehearsal space. Dancers 10 and younger must be checked in and out by a parent or guardian. Older dancers may check themselves in and out unless we are directed otherwise. Dancers may not leave the rehearsal site during rehearsal time without written permission of a parent, and must be accompanied by a buddy.

Please bring snacks and plenty of water for the rehearsal period.

Blocked Schedule

Below is a blocked schedule that provides the general rehearsal times. Note that for large scenes, performers may or may not need to be at rehearsal for the entire block. For example, certain cast members in the party scene may only need to be at rehearsal for one or two hours during the block.

This is our best estimate at this time, and may be subject to change. A more detailed schedule will be available in September.

All rehearsals, except for tech week, take place at the Carmel Academy of Performing Art, 8th & Mission, Carmel, CA.

Friday nights: 4:30pm-6pm Chinese
Friday nights: 7:30-9:30pm Snow, Waltz
Spanish added to block in Oct.

Saturdays 9am-1pm: Russian, Sheep, Clara
Saturdays 1pm-2pm: Mother Ginger
Saturdays 2pm-3pm: Ballerina Dolls
Saturdays 2pm-6pm: Party Scene

Sundays – 4 hours (exact times still TBA)
Arabian 1 hour
Angels 1 hr
Battle Scene- 2 hours

Sugar Plum Fairy, Soldier Doll, Nut Prince: times TBA

Costumes

A costume is provided for each dance in which the performer is cast.

Costume Fitting: Joanne Phelps and her team of volunteers will fit and alter all costumes. Costume fittings will be held during a scheduled rehearsal period for that scene. Please do not miss rehearsals or costume fittings.

Dress Rehearsals and Performances: The performer and/or his or her parent must make sure that the costume and all accessories are at the theater, clean (costumes are issued clean), pressed (if needed), and ready to wear for all performances. It is a good idea to come to the theater prepared with safety pins and a needle and thread. Performers may not eat, drink, or apply makeup while in costume unless the costume is protected by a smock, big shirt, or other means.

Performers are responsible for providing their own shoes, tights, and make-up. A complete list of requirements will be provided after casting. Female dancers should bring at least two pairs of tights in case of runs or tears. Shoes should be clean and in “new” condition.

To preserve the magic of the stage, we ask that costumes not be worn to or from the theater and that performers refrain from being in the lobby during intermission while wearing a costume.

Immediately following the last performance, costumes (including headpieces) will be collected at the Sunset Center by the costume team, unless the dancer is participating in the Carmel Valley Ranch show on December 23, 2017. Performers in the Carmel Valley Ranch show should turn in their costumes immediately following the show.

Dance Kids will clean all costumes.

Family Volunteer Policy

We need you! In order to produce a high-quality production, we not only need a talented cast, but also a great group of parent/guardian/family volunteers. You help make this show successful! **We have a variety of opportunities to fit different schedules.**

We believe that performing is a vital part of a dancer's education. Dance Kids of Monterey County provides this experience for all of the young people that audition for Nutcracker. It is an enormous undertaking and requires many hours of rehearsal on the part of the dancers as well as hundreds of hours of volunteer support behind the scenes.

We need every family to volunteer to help with some aspect of the performance. There are many different kinds of jobs to be done; with everyone's help we have fun and are able to put on a smooth performance. Each family is expected to help by volunteering for **twenty hours**. There are many opportunities to help for the entire family; older siblings with experience in baby-sitting can help during rehearsals as well as grandmothers or grandfathers that can sew! Be an involved and creative family!

The information contained in this booklet is meant to make the first-time performer feel as comfortable as the "veterans" who have danced in many productions. We have great shows and want everyone to have a wonderful experience with Dance Kids of Monterey County. It is important to us that everyone from the smallest mouse to the Sugar Plum Fairy learns and expands their skills as a dancer through performance. Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your cooperation—it is only with your support that we can achieve excellence.

We do allow families to "buy-out" of their volunteer obligations by paying \$400, but we much prefer that your family help in making the Nutcracker an amazing experience for performers and audiences alike.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Graphic Artists: Do you have skills in the graphic arts? Can you create posters, postcards, signage? Let us know, we've got jobs for you! Time commitment varies.

Costume Assistants: Costumes are critical to any performance and each year our costumes must be fitted to performers in new roles. That means a lot of stitch ripping, hemming, crafting and more! We need help with sewing, crafting, and organizing tasks. Even if you don't have sewing experience there are still things you can help with in the costume department. Costuming typically takes place on Sunday afternoons from 1-5pm at the Dance Kids Office at

the south end of the Sunset Center. There are also opportunities for responsible teens who are interested in earning community service hours.

Rehearsal Assistants: It is not all about the show! In order to create an amazing final production, our performers put in a lot of rehearsal time. Because we have many young people participating in our performance, we need volunteers to check performers in and out of rehearsal and also to help watch our little ones during down time. There are lots of spots available, which makes it easy to fit this job into any schedule. This is also a great opportunity for responsible teens to earn community service credit.

Parent Performer: Do you like to dance? Do you like to be on stage? You can fulfill the family volunteer commitment by being a parent performer!

Party Coordinators and Assistants: If parties are your thing, then we've got some great opportunities for you. As part of our fundraising efforts, Dance Kids hosts two great events during the performance weekend—The Gala and the Sugar Plum Fairy Party. Most of the work for these positions happens prior to the performance and is generally flexible. But, we also need people to help set-up and break down the party room (Studio 105 at the Sunset Center). Party assistant is another great opportunity for responsible teens to earn community service credit.

Tech Week and Performance Volunteers: The show will not go on without you! Families can give all of their volunteer hours helping backstage during Tech Week and during performances, or families could commit just some of their hours. The reality is that we need a small army of volunteers backstage to make the performances run smoothly. We need people to man the stage doors, supervise our younger performers in the dressing rooms, help with quick changes, assist with props, and check performers in and out. There is just so much that goes on behind the scenes. Unlike some other positions that span several months, these opportunities all take place within a one-week time span. Stage hands are still another opportunity for responsible teens to earn community service.

Auction and Program Ad Assistants – About 1/4 of our funding for the production comes from our silent and live auction fundraiser and our program ads. We need six to eight people willing to work with the auction coordinator and the program ad coordinator to reach out to local businesses for auction items and ad placements. We are also hoping to brainstorm creative ideas for live auction this year. Program ad work is generally completed by mid-November. Securing auction items commitments is also completed by November, but additional help is needed collecting the auction items, setting up for the auction, collecting payments and distributing items.

Even if this is not your choice of volunteer jobs, if you know any local businesses that would be interested in donating or placing an ad in our program book, please let the coordinators know.

MPC Coordinator: We need someone with strong organizing skills to coordinate the MPC process. The position involves sending out MPC forms to eligible performers, arranging and attending the one-hour meeting with the MPC representative, compiling attendance records for eligible students, and collecting all completed forms.

School and Nursing Home Outreach Coordinators: Do you believe that both young and old should have an opportunity to enjoy the performing arts? Dance Kids does a number of special performances at several nursing homes on the peninsula. We need someone to help coordinate these performances, which includes outreach to local nursing homes, scheduling, and attending the performances, which will be scheduled for November 4, 2017.

Secondly, we need someone to coordinate our school performance on December 8. The children that attend this program come from schools where the majority of students receive free or reduced price school lunches. It may be one of the few opportunities these children have to see a live ballet. This volunteer needs to follow up with our contact at Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, reach out to other schools to the extent additional space is available, and be on site before and during the school performance.

Load-in & Strike: What would a performance be without props and stage equipment? We need approximately six people to dedicate 3-4 hours to help load-in and strike the equipment at the Sunset Center.

Load-in: Tuesday, Dec. 4 (time TBA, but usually in the morning)

Strike: Sunday, Dec. 11 (immediately following the show).

Administrative Assistant: Do you like numbers and spreadsheets? Do you know (or are you willing to learn) Quickbooks? We need one such person to help track payments and deposit checks.

Gift Sales Assistants: Prior to and after performances and during intermissions, Dance Kids sells various holiday gift items, including Nutcrackers! We need a few people to help with gifts sales.

Wild Card: Don't know exactly what you want to do, but are happy to help wherever needed. You're a wild card, and we need you. We are happy to discuss a volunteer position that best fits your schedule and skills. We also need people willing to cover volunteer slots on a last minute basis.

Auction, Program Ads, Fundraising, Marketing, and Sponsorships!

The success of Dance Kids depends on our ability to fundraise. Unfortunately, ticket sales cover only about 40% of our production costs. Consider helping Dance Kids by spreading the word about the Nutcracker to potential attendees, identifying businesses to be sponsors, to be auction donors, or to place an ad in the Nutcracker program. And, of course, consider and encourage others to think about Dance Kids when they are making charitable contributions.

Marketing: We encourage everyone to help us promote the show by distributing marketing materials at your place of business, school or other locations. Postcards will be available at the rehearsals. Please distribute them by hand or send them to people who might be interested in seeing Nutcracker. Posters are available upon request to info@dancekids.org.

Dance Kids will post marketing information regularly to social media sites. If you use these sites we ask that you “like” or share the posted information so that it will reach a wider audience. Also, if you think there are social media sites or groups that we should be posting to, please let us know. You can email our social media coordinator, Alicia Stirling-Julian, with any ideas: stirlingjulian@gmail.com.

Restaurant Partnerships: Join us for dinner! From time to time Dance Kids partners with local restaurants for fundraising events, in which a certain portion of the proceeds on a specified date or dates will be donated to Dance Kids. Please consider taking your family and encouraging your friends to participate in these fundraising events.

Auction Items, Program Ads: About one fourth of the funds for the Nutcracker comes from our live and silent auction and revenue generated from our program ads.

Do you have a business or know someone with a local business that would be willing to advertise or give? If so, please contact our Auction Coordinator, Catalina Szalay, crhouse@comcast.net, or Program Ad Coordinator, Tara Twomey, ttwomey@me.com.

Sponsorships: We have some great corporate sponsorship opportunities this year for businesses that would like to do more. Among other things, we are looking for corporate sponsors for our elementary school program on Friday morning and for our Sugar Plum Fairy Party. For more information on corporate sponsorship, or if you know a business

that we should reach out to, please contact: Wendy Brickman at brickman@brickmanmarketing.com

Fundraising: Dance Kids conducts fundraising campaigns throughout the year in order to raise funds for all of our programming activities from the Nutcracker to in-school performing arts programs. You can help by donating yourself or by encouraging friends and family to donate. Any amount helps! Donate by clicking the “Donate” button on the Dance Kids website, www.dancekids.org, or give through Monterey County Gives website, www.montereycountygives.com/nonprofit/dance/.

Do you have other fundraising ideas? Something that may have worked for your performer’s school and an event you’ve seen elsewhere. Let us know at info@dancekids.org.

Questions???

We have tried to make this information booklet as comprehensive as possible, but we know other questions will arise. If your question isn’t answered in these pages, please feel free to email us at: info@dancekids.org.

Nutcracker Staff

Andrea Paris (Choreographer) — Guitierrez was selected as the choreographer for the 2015 complete remount of *Nutcracker* for Dance Kids of Monterey County. She holds the British Ballet Organizations Solo Dancer's Diploma. Andrea trained on Full Scholarship at the New Zealand School of dance before joining the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Andrea toured the US and Canada with the National Touring Company of *Sugar Babies*, *Song of Norway*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Anything Goes*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pajama Game* and more. She choreographed and performed with Opera Pacific and the Los Angeles Opera. She coached Fred Savage on *The Wonder Years*, Rita Moreno for PBS, and Tony Geary on *General Hospital*. She choreographed the award-winning video for the rock/punk band Jane's Addiction. In 1992 Andrea opened the Los Angeles Ballet Academy and has been the Artistic Director for 24 years. She holds the Royal Academy of Dance Teacher's Certificate. Andrea has been awarded Outstanding Choreographer at Company Dance and the Youth America Grand Prix and the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from *Dance Teacher Magazine*. Andrea lives in Lake Balboa with her husband Iker. Their son Dylan is a member of the Joffrey Ballet Company and their daughter Veronica is a freelance dancer with MTA Agency. Andrea would like to congratulate all the dancers, volunteers, and Friends of Dance Kids for their hard work and inspiration.

Sandra Burnham — British born Sandra Burnham has 50 years' experience as a professional dancer, teacher and examiner of classical ballet. After a season as a teenager with the Royal Ballet's "Ballet for All" program, she grew too tall for corps work and became a member of the world famous Bluebell Girls troupe in Paris for seven years. She also worked as a Parisian high fashion model. Moving to New York, she worked in haut couture modeling and then as a NBC-TV production assistant, whilst continuing her ballet training at the Youskevitch Studio. Marrying and returning to her native England, she opened and ran her own highly successful ballet school in beautiful North Yorkshire for twenty years, during which time she became an international ballet examiner for London's Royal Academy of Dance. She has taught and examined in Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Shanghai, Hong Kong, the Caribbean, Canada and the United States. Settling back in the States in 1998, she has mounted productions of *Graduation Ball* in England, GA, FL and MD and of *The Nutcracker* in CA, as well as teaching summer schools, intensives, and coaching for Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP). Her teaching is noted for its careful combination of technique with interpretation, and for her disciplined care for and compassion with her students.

Gloria Elber — Gloria is legendary for her choreography and directing of the stage and musicals on the Peninsula. Gloria is a dancer, teacher, director and choreographer. She has worked with most of the theater groups on the Peninsula and was the choreographer for the Gold Medal, USA Olympic team in synchronized swimming. Most recently, Gloria directed Carmel's Centennial Celebration Parade with over 700 participants.

Gabriella (Gabby) Flanders — rehearsal director of the Mother Ginger scene, is a dynamic force on stage and off. She currently serves on the Dance Kids Board of Directors as Student Representative. This is Gabby's seventh year on stage in *Nutcracker*. She began her dance training at three years old. Her patience and talent in teaching was evident at an early age. She teaches four classes a week and is grateful for the mentorship of Mrs. Burnham. Gabby is honored to be a member of the board of directors and the cast of *Nutcracker*.

Kelly Regan — Kelly Regan BA(HONS), RAD RTS, LRAD, ARAD, AHP was born in Palos Heights, Illinois and as a young child moved south to live on Florida's Gulf Coast. At the age of eight, she began training in Martial Arts (Tae Kwon Do) and in three years achieved the level of Recommended Black Belt. At the same time, Kelly began taking Tap and Ballet classes, but after a year realized that she would need to dedicate herself to one art form only. Dance prevailed and her family sought out a school that would offer her a stronger training in Classical Ballet. From 2004-2007, Kelly was a student at the American Academy of Ballet in New York. Following her graduation, Kelly began training with the Texas Ballet Theater School in Dallas under the direction of Ben Stevenson. During her time in Dallas, she began teaching both RAD Grades and Vocational examination classes. In 2009, Kelly and her husband moved to London where she began working towards her BA in Ballet Education at the Royal Academy of Dance. Prior to the start of her degree course, Kelly was invited to partake in the making of BBC Four film 'Margot' and relished in the experience of working alongside actress Ann-Marie Duff and theatre-legend Sir Derek Jacobi. Since moving to England, Kelly has taught and coached students at several schools throughout London, including Denise Winmill School of Dance, The Marble Hill Dance Studio and Fancy Footwork. From an early stage in her dance training, Kelly used Pilates as a form of body conditioning. Her love of Pilates has continued to grow and, under the mentorship of Master Pilates Instructor Alan Herdman, she became certified to teach in July 2013.

Philip Pegler — Philip was born in Westow, England and began his study of Classical Ballet with his mother at the age of five. At the age of eleven, Philip was accepted into the Bush-Davies School, where he trained until the establishment's closure in 1989. After further training at The Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg he joined The Legat School before accepting a full scholarship to study at The Harid Conservatory in Florida. In 1991, Philip returned to England and was offered a place at The Royal Ballet School in London. He became the School's Head Student in 1994 and graduated with the School's Teachers' Training Course Diploma in 1995. Although initially employed as Company Ballet Master and Soloist Dancer with the Columbia City Ballet, Philip has dedicated much of his career to the education and training of students. He became the Artistic Director of the South Carolina Dance Theatre in 1996 before joining the Calvert-Brodie School as Director in 1998. In 2002, Philip was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor in the College of Theatre and Dance at the University of Florida, where he taught Classical Ballet and lectured in Dance History. Philip was appointed to the Board of Vocational Examiners of the Royal Academy of Dance in 2005; a position that ultimately took him to five of the world's six continents. In 2008, he returned to live in England, where he joined the faculty of Elmhurst School for Dance in Birmingham. Philip was subsequently elected to the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Dance and has continued to work as a Freelance Teacher, mentoring students and teachers in both the private and vocational education sectors.

Kristine Tarozzi — Kristine attended the prestigious Marin Ballet School and Dominican University in San Rafael receiving a B.S. in Business and a Minor in Dance. Kristine then went on to earn a M.A. degree in dance from Mills College. During her college years, Kristine spent time performing as an NFL 49er Goldrush Girl and an NBA Warrior Girl. She is currently the Director of Dance at Carmel High School.

Other Dance Kids Programs

Xpress Yourself: Let's Dance

Student access to arts education and the quality of such instruction in public schools continue to be of concern to policymakers, educators and families. Dance Kids strives to present arts education outside of regular school hours with school-community partnerships. Our newest program in conjunction with Crumpton School in Marina offers after school dance classes to 75 students. During this 8-week course, three teachers provide instruction in ballet, hip hop and jazz twice a week.



Cascanuaces: A Latino Nutcracker

For the past three years, Dance Kids of Monterey County has toured an original production, *Cascanuaces: A Latino Nutcracker*, in elementary, middle and high schools from San Ardo to Salinas. The performance includes nine mariachi musicians performing Tchaikovsky's masterpiece composed in Hispanic sounds by Salinas-born, Jalisco harpist William Faulkner. Folkloric dancers perform four traditional, and very different, dance styles from four different Mexican states. Joining with a mariachi version of the Sugar Plum Fairy solo, a traditionally costumed Dance Kids' ballerina performs in traditional tutu. Dance Kids also provides collateral teaching materials to schools in order to explain the performance, the musical instruments and the traditional ballet story. Over the past three years, Dance Kids has performed this program for more than 2500 children.



Partnering with Upward Bound

Upward Bound provides fundamental support and motivation to participants in their preparation for college. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. Dance Kids has collaborated with Upward Bound, held each summer at CSUMB, for the past five years. Dance Kids provides music and dance teachers for the afternoon sessions with over 150 young people, many from the Salinas Valley. They live at the University four days out of each six-week session and have an academic morning and arts enriched afternoon. Last year Dance Kids taught hula, folkloric dance, and guitar as part of the program.

This past year Joaquin Escamilla provided DK's instruction at Upward Bound. After working for weeks with these young people, many of whom had never had any dance training, Joaquin said: *"This day has been stored in the happy place in my heart. Teaching this group reminded me of my past teachers. And now me. Showing human beings that you just need to believe. Amazing. At the end one student said, 'this is the most fun I have ever had.'"*

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING DANCE KIDS!

