

# PLAYBILL

diablo  
ballet

Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director



## The Nutcracker Suite

November 7 - 8, 2025

# diablo ballet

Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director

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## Diablo Ballet School

Lauren Jonas: Co-Founder & Director  
Krissy Gray: Co-Founder & Director of Operations  
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Natalie Allenton, Olivia Hush, Halyna Klymenko, Abbie Wang, & Alice Welch: Teacher Assistants  
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Nicole Ciapponi  
Amanda Farris  
Evelyn Febuary  
Andrea Gaudet  
Alina Gonzalez  
Luis Gonzalez  
Mia Hanflig  
Dawn Perrin  
Olivia Powell  
Alison Ramoran

Dear Friends,

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to our 32nd season of dance, artistry, and storytelling. This year, we celebrate the beauty of classical masterpieces alongside bold contemporary works that push the boundaries of movement and imagination. Each performance has been carefully curated to inspire, move, and delight you, showcasing the artistry of our exceptional dancers and the creativity of today's most celebrated choreographers.

As always, our mission is to connect with our community, on stage and beyond. Through our PEEK Outreach Program, our Dance for Parkinson's Program and our Diablo Ballet School, we bring the transformative power of dance to underserved students, aspiring artists, and even those managing health challenges. Your support helps make this possible and fuels our commitment to inclusivity, excellence, and innovation in dance.

Thank you for joining me in celebrating the shared joy that only live performance can offer. I look forward to seeing you in the theater and sharing the magic of dance together.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Jonas".

Lauren Jonas  
Artistic Director, Diablo Ballet

# **The Nutcracker Suite**

Choreography: Julia Adam

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

(surprise tracks from Benny Goodman and His Orchestra and Jackie Gleason Orchestra)

Costume Design and Construction: Christopher Dunn, Amanda Farris, Renee Rothmann

Lighting Design: Jack Carpenter & Cassie Barnes

Set and Props: Sedley Chew, Debbie Shelley, Krissy Gray

Diablo Ballet School Rehearsal Assistants: Nicole Ciapponi, Amanda Farris, Andrea Gaudet,

Mia Hanflig, Olivia Powell

<b>Concierge/Drosselmeyer</b>	Luis Gonzalez/Diego Cruz Alvarez
<b>Clara Diablo</b>	Alison Ramoran
<b>Bell Hop/Nutboy</b>	Marco Clemente
<b>Mrs. Diablo/Sugar Plum</b>	Nicole Ciapponi/Lizzie Devaney
<b>Mr. Diablo/Cavalier</b>	Elijah Hartley
<b>Auntie Diablo/Snow Queen</b>	Amanda Farris/Olivia Powell
<b>Fritz Diablo/Mouse King</b>	Micheal Bushman
<b>Jack Frost</b>	Astrid Arvelo
<b>Hotel Guest/Mr. Hanukkah</b>	Diego Cruz Alvarez/Luis Gonzalez
<b>Maid 1</b>	Alina Gonzalez
<b>Maid 2/Mrs. Goodman</b>	Genevieve Boyle
<b>Maid 3/Mrs. Gleason</b>	Evelyn Febuary
<b>Maid 4</b>	Mia Hanflig
<b>Maid 5</b>	Grace Thompson
<b>Maid 6</b>	Natalie Allenton/Kyla Marcus
<b>Bell Hop/Mr. Goodman</b>	*Phoenix Breese

## **Soldiers and Mice**

Micheal Bushman, Marco Clemente, Alison Ramoran, Luis Gonzalez/Diego Cruz Alvarez

\*\*Sofia Carino, \*\*Mitra Lavine, \*\*Emily Tram, \*\*Mia Vos, \*\*Alice Welch

## **Mirlitons**

Alison Ramoran, Luis Gonzalez/Diego Cruz Alvarez

Genevieve Boyle, Evelyn Febuary

## **Snowflakes**

Alison Ramoran, Marco Clemente

Amanda Farris/Olivia Powell, Luis Gonzalez/Diego Cruz Alvarez

Astrid Arvelo

with

Natalie Allenton, Mia Hanflig, Kyla Marcus

\*\*Julianna Anonuevo, \*\*Olivia Hush, \*\*Halyna Klymenko, \*\*Amanda Luo, \*\*Dominique Rivera

## **Snow Kids**

\*\*Chloe Li, \*\*Naavya Mistry, \*\*Sophie Skinner, \*\*Audrey Welch

### **Dreidel Dance**

Lizzie Devanney/Nicole Ciapponi, Diego Cruz Alvarez/Luis Gonzalez  
Genevieve Boyle, Evelyn Febuary  
\*Phoenix Breese, \*\*Michelle Li, \*\*Natsuki Miyawaka, \*\*Lucy Tong

### **Sugar Plum Pas de Trois**

Nicole Ciapponi/Lizzie Devanney, Luis Gonzalez/Diego Cruz Alvarez  
Elijah Hartley

### **Mistletoe**

\*\*Sofia Bognari, \*\*Mariah Farris, \*\*Vivian Gigliotti, \*\*Peyton Holmes, \*\*Celinka Lesiewicz,  
\*\*Sophia Liu, \*\*Sylvianne Mulvaney, \*\*Josephine Rimes, \*\*Penelope Weber-Griffith, \*\*Aria Zhou

### **Poinsettias**

Alison Ramoran, Marco Clemente  
Alina Gonzalez, Amanda Farris/Olivia Powell  
Diego Cruz Alvarez, Micheal Bushman, Marco Clemente, Luis Gonzalez, Elijah Hartley,  
Natalie Allenton, Mia Hanflig, Kyla Marcus  
\*\*Julianna Anonuevo, \*\*Olivia Hush, \*\*Halyna Klymenko, \*\*Amanda Luo, \*\*Dominique Rivera

### **Epilogue**

Full Company

\*Diablo Ballet Junior Trainee

\*\*Diablo Ballet School Student

World Premiere Act 1: November 8, 2019, Del Valle Theatre, Walnut Creek, California

World Premiere Full Length: November 12, 2021, Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, California

*This performance of "The Nutcracker Suite" is made possible by: Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation,  
J.R., Ashraf Habibullah, Elizabeth Green Sah and The Richard Sah Memorial Fund for New Work,  
Louise Morrison, William Rothmann*

### **The Story**

The Nutcracker first premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia on December 18, 1892. The two-act production has been a staple of holiday traditions around the world. Diablo Ballet's production, choreographed by Julia Adam, takes place in the 1950's at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. The story unfolds when the Diablo family checks into the Nutcracker Suite on Christmas Eve. Heir Drosselmeyer, Clara's Uncle, is the concierge; a bellhop transforms into the Nutcracker; Fritz is the rat king; Mr. and Mrs. Diablo become the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier; and the aunt turns into the Snow Queen, while hotel maids perform in dances from the Kingdom of the Sweets. In the end, everyone delights in a joyous finale, leaving Clara to wonder: was it all a dream, or did all of the magic really happen?

## Choreographer



Canadian born Julia Adam received her early training in her hometown of Ottawa, Ontario, and at age thirteen began studies at the National Ballet School in Toronto, graduating in 1983. Upon receiving a Canada Council Grant, Julia spent a year traveling, exploring the European art and dance scene along with apprenticing with the National Ballet of Canada. She then joined the company under the direction of Erik Bruhn. In 1988, Julia joined San Francisco Ballet, where she finished the remainder of her dancing career, gaining prestige as a principal dancer known for her lyricism, musicality and broad theatrical range. Julia performed a wide range of roles in Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson's diverse repertory for the Company. She retired from dancing in Spring 2002. Julia has created over 70 works for numerous companies including San Francisco Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, Houston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, ABT 2, Alberta Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Atlanta Ballet, Nashville Ballet and has created and staged over 10 works on Ballet Memphis where she was Artistic Associate from 2010 to 2013. In 2014, Julia founded

her own company, Julia Adam Dance, an ensemble of handpicked dancers performing in an open air theater built in beautiful West Marin. She also continues to choreograph, create new works for companies, and win critical acclaim for her work.

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**diablo  
ballet  
school**

Enrich. Inspire. Educate.



The first ballet school in the history of Contra Costa County run by a professional ballet company offering classes available for ages 3 through adult, including Dance for Parkinson's classes.

For more information and a listing of classes, visit: [diabloballet.org](http://diabloballet.org).

# Artists of the Company



**Diego Cruz Alvarez**  
Born: Zaragoza, Spain  
Companies performed with:  
San Francisco Ballet



**Astrid Arvelo**  
Born: Caracas, Venezuela  
Companies performed with:  
Teresa Carreño Ballet de  
Caracas & Ballet Clásico  
Cubano de Miami



**Micheal Bushman**  
Born: Los Angeles, CA  
Companies performed with:  
Pacific Northwest Ballet,  
Ballet West



**Nicole Ciapponi**  
Born: Vancouver, BC  
Companies performed with:  
San Francisco Ballet and  
Joffrey Ballet



**Marco Clemente**  
Born: Chicago, IL  
Companies performed with:  
Dayton Ballet, Minnesota  
Ballet and Ballet Nebraska



**Lizzie Devanney**  
Born: Bel Air, MD  
Companies performed with:  
Pittsburgh Ballet,  
Pacific Northwest Ballet



**Amanda Farris**  
Born: Modesto, CA  
Companies performed with:  
The Georgia Ballet



**Alina Gonzalez**  
Born: Pittsburg, CA  
Companies performed with:  
Diablo Ballet



**Luis Gonzalez**  
Born: Bogota, Colombia  
Companies performed with:  
Houston Ballet II, Orlando  
Ballet, Joffrey Ballet,  
Sarasota Ballet



**Elijah Hartley**  
Montesano, WA  
Companies performed with:  
Ballet West



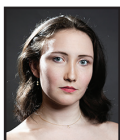
**Olivia Powell**  
Born: Boston, MA  
Companies performed with:  
The Alabama Ballet,  
Ballet Memphis



**Alison Ramoran**  
Born: Torrance, CA  
Companies performed with:  
Oklahoma City Ballet,  
Smuin Contemporary Ballet



**Genevieve Boyle**  
Apprentice  
Born: Salt Lake City, UT



**Evelyn Febuary**  
Apprentice  
Born: Lafayette, LA



**Mia Hanflig**  
JR Apprentice  
Born: Cape Cod, MA



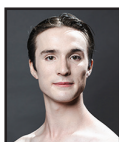
**Grace Thompson**  
JR Apprentice  
Born: Berkeley, CA



**Natalie Allenton**  
Trainee



**Kyla Marcus**  
Trainee



**Phoenix Breese**  
JR Trainee

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## Special Thanks

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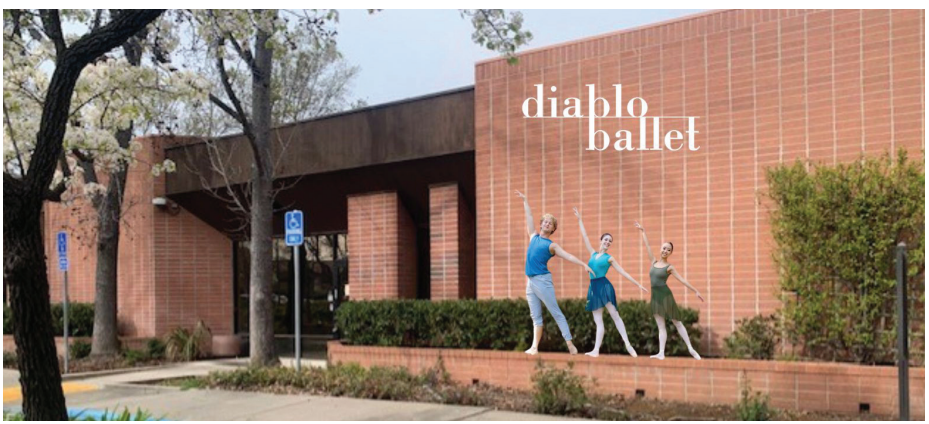
Julie Trovato

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## Introducing Our New Home!

We are thrilled to be embarking on an exciting new chapter in our 32-year history: Diablo Ballet's new permanent home located in Shadelands of Walnut Creek and slated to open in early 2026.

This state-of-the-art facility will house our professional dancers, our Diablo Ballet School, and provide expanded studio space for training the next generation of dancers, a gathering place for youth and families, and a secure foundation for the Ballet's future.

To make this dream a reality, we have launched a Capital Campaign. We invite you to be a part of this historic moment!

A generous Diablo Ballet donor has awarded a \$500,000 matching contribution and we only have **\$130,000** to raise! This means that the gift you make today could have twice the impact, producing an even greater difference in the lives of those we serve. Every contribution is critical for us to reach our goal by **November 30, 2025**.

**Scan the QR code to make a contribution to our new home!**

Thank you for your wonderful support!



# Friends of Diablo Ballet

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Diablo Ballet acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and organizations whose support makes our performances possible. This list reflects donations and contributions made to Diablo Ballet between January 1, 2025 - October 10, 2025. We thank you for your continued support and apologize for any omission or errors in the listing.

## Distinguished Gifts

### *\$25K and above*

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Juliana Walters

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Kristie & James Vetterli  
Cathy Waite  
Jeanne & Edwin Walker  
Grace Wang  
Aaron Woolsey  
Lesley Wright  
Halei Zhai

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## New Building Capital Campaign Donors

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Jack S. Catton	Elizabeth Masten	Aaron Woolsey
Karyn Connell	Louise Morrison	Halei Zhai
Jennifer Corbett	June Rando	
Joseph Ficarelli	Sandy & Marty Shellhammer	
Jenny Yip & Michael Kim	Kerry Silverstone	
Susan King		
Barbara Kuklewicz		



Save the Date!

**March 27, 2026**

### Diablo Ballet's 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Gala

Celebrate Diablo Ballet's 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary immediately following the March 27<sup>th</sup> performance of *Romeo & Juliet*. Dress to impress and join us for a dazzling night including a celebratory dinner with the dancers, an exciting live and silent auction, and more all within walking distance of the Leshner Center for the Arts at Walnut Creek's premiere event space, The Garden.

A limited number of tickets will go on sale January 12, 2026. Visit [diabloballet.org/events](http://diabloballet.org/events) for more information.

# diablo ballet

Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director



Photo by Tue Nam Ton

## Join us for the remainder of our 2025-26 Season

### *The Little Mermaid*

February 6 - 7, 2026

Next February, dive into an enchanting underwater world with Julia Adam's brand-new ballet, *The Little Mermaid*; the Diablo Ballet premiere of *Company B* by legendary dancemaker Paul Taylor set to the music of the Andrews Sisters; and by popular demand the return of *Donizetti Variations* by George Balanchine.

### *Romeo & Juliet*

March 27 - 28, 2026

Choreographer Penny Saunders takes you on a powerful journey with her interpretation of the timeless love story, *Romeo & Juliet*. Shakespeare's famous tale of star-crossed lovers is retold through passionate choreography, dramatic staging, and Sergei Prokofiev's unforgettable score.

### *Coppélia*

May 15 - 16, 2026

The beloved comic ballet, *Coppélia*, features a brash young protagonist, a doll that comes to life, and a dash of magic. With lively characters, a case of mistaken identity, and a bright orchestral score, this enchanting ballet will charm and delight the young and young at heart.

Purchase tickets: 925.943-SHOW / [lesherartscenter.org](https://lesherartscenter.org)  
Information and Groups: 925.943.1775 / [diabloballet.org](https://diabloballet.org)