PLAYBILL


The Nutcracker Suite
November 13-14, 2026
diablo ballet
Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director

diablo ballet

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Andrea Gaudet
Luis Gonzalez
Mia Hanflig
Olivia Powell
Alison Ramoran

Diablo Ballet: 490 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
(925) 943-1775 | www.diabloballet.org

Dear Friends of Diablo Ballet,

There is something especially magical about opening a new season, and even more so when we begin with a story that has become such a beloved part of the holiday tradition.

We are thrilled to welcome you to our brand-new, two-act production of ***The Nutcracker Suite***, choreographed by the wonderfully imaginative Julia Adam. With new choreography, beautiful costumes, and plenty of surprises, this production brings a fresh perspective to a story we all know and love.

For me, this performance represents much more than the beginning of another season. It represents the extraordinary journey Diablo Ballet has taken over more than three decades and the incredible community that has made that journey possible. From our dancers and choreographers to our musicians, designers, staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, donors, sponsors, and educators, so many people contribute to bringing our vision to life.

This season is particularly meaningful as we continue to grow both onstage and throughout our community with our new building!
As we enter our 33rd year, we are excited to share a season filled with beloved stories, timeless masterpieces, new choreography, and bold artistic voices. Most importantly, we are grateful that you are here to experience it with us.

Thank you for being part of the Diablo Ballet family and for believing in the power of dance to enrich, inspire, and educate.

Now, let the magic begin!

With profound gratitude,



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: Amanda Farris, Christopher Dunn, Renee Rothmann
Lighting Design: Cassie Barnes & Jack Carpenter
Set and Props: Sedley Chew, Debbie Shelley, Krissy Gray
Diablo Ballet School Rehearsal Assistants: Nicole Ciapponi, Amanda Farris, Evelyn Febuary, Andrea Gaudet, Mia Hanflig, Olivia Powell

Clara Diablo	Alison Ramoran
Concierge/Drosselmeyer	Luis Gonzalez
Bell Hop/Nutboy	Marco Clemente
Mrs. Diablo/Sugar Plum	Lizzie Devanney
Mr. Diablo/Cavalier	Elijah Hartley
Auntie Diablo/Snow Queen	Amanda Farris
Fritz Diablo/Mouse King	Peter Millin
Hotel Guest/Mrs. Hanukkah /Jack Frost	Nicole Ciapponi
Hotel Guest/Mr. Hanukkah	Diego Cruz Alvarez
Hotel Guest/Pan Am Pilot	Bina Anvari
Maid 1/Joy Poinsettia	Alina Gonzalez
Maid 2/Mrs. Goodman	Genevieve Boyle
Maid 3/Mrs. Gleason	Mia Hanflig
Maid 4/Flight Attendant	Natalie Allenton
Maid 5/Flight Attendant	Kyla Marcus
Maid 6/Noel Poinsettia	Astrid Arvelo
Bell Hop/Mr. Goodman	*Phoenix Breese

Soldiers and Mice
Peter Millin, Marco Clemente, Alison Ramoran, Luis Gonzalez
**Olive Caseres, **Mitra Lavine, **Grayson McChesney, **Eva Robinson, **Sophia Senh, **Eden Tomtania, **Emily Tram, **Mia Vos

Mirlitons
Alison Ramoran, Luis Gonzalez
Genevieve Boyle, Alina Gonzalez

Snowflakes
Alison Ramoran, Marco Clemente
Amanda Farris, Luis Gonzalez
Nicole Ciapponi
with
Natalie Allenton, Mia Hanflig, Kyla Marcus
*Emma Caseras, *Joy Hsiao, *Hina Oshima

Intermission

Snow Kids

**Sofia Bognari, **Gwen Caseres, **Sarah Causevic, **Emerson DaValle, **Tallula Duvall Banks, **Mariah Farris, **Mai Feinberg, **Stella Foltynek, **Vivian Gigliotti, **Ellie Ho, **Peyton Holmes, **Chloe Huang, **Hibiki Kasahara, **Sophie Kim, **Celinka Lesiewicz, **Sophia Liu, **Naavya Mistry, **Sylvianne Mulvaney, **Josephine Rimes, **Bradley Robinson, **Sophie Skinner, **Anaya Sookhai, **Penelope Weber-Griffith, **Aria Zhou

Sugar Plum Pas de Trois

Lizzie Devanney, Luis Gonzalez, Elijah Hartley

Dreidel Dance

Nicole Ciapponi, Diego Cruz Alvarez
*Phoenix Breese, Genevieve Boyle, Mia Hanflig
**Charlotte Caseres, **Lauren Cubanske, **Ella Douglass, **Neha Mistry, **Colette Sawyer, **Elise Tamayo, **Isabelle Wilson, **Audrey Winterbourne

Mistletoe

**Naomi Chen, **Vivianne Crowell, **Violeta Ferreira, **Katie Friedman, **Hannah Lim, **Madison Lim, **Philippa Post, **Daphne Rau, **Kinsley Resendiz, **Eliana Rose, **Nika Taghizadeh, **Sophie Wodhams

Fly Away

Natalie Allenton, Kyla Marcus, Bina Anvari
*Emma Caseres, *Joy Hsiao, *Hina Oshima

Poinsettias

Alison Ramoran, Marco Clemente
Alina Gonzalez, Astrid Arvelo
Diego Cruz Alvarez, Bina Anvari, Marco Clemente, Luis Gonzalez, Elijah Hartley, Peter Millin
**Charlotte Caseres, **Lauren Cubanske, **Ella Douglass, **Colette Sawyer, **Elise Tamayo, **Alana Wilson, **Audrey Winterbourne

Epilogue

Full Company

*Diablo Ballet 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, Lesher Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, California

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

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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From Creative Movement to pre-professional training programs, enroll today to train with our first-class Diablo Ballet School faculty, which includes Diablo Ballet's own professional dancers.

diablo ballet school

Learn more at *diabloballet.org*, or email school@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



Genevieve Boyle
Born: Salt Lake City, UT
Companies performed with:
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Ballet Chicago, 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



Peter Millin
Born: Los Angeles, CA
Companies performed with:
Pacific Northwest Ballet, 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



Natalie Allenton
Apprentice



Bina Anvari
Apprentice



Mia Hanflig
Apprentice



Kyla Marcus
Apprentice



Phoenix Breese
Trainee



Emma Caseres
Trainee



Joy Hsiao
Trainee



Hina Oshima
Trainee

Photos by Tue Nam Ton

Diablo Ballet's

NUTCRACKER MARKET

DECEMBER 2ND | 5:30-8:30 PM

Enjoy a festive evening of holiday shopping, tasty bites, and more!

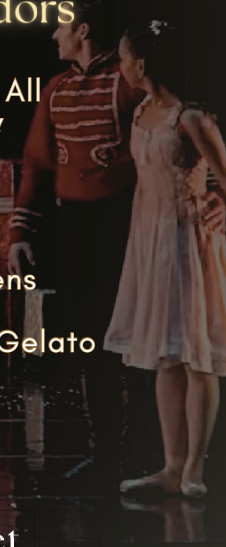
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Diablo Ballet

Scan to participate!

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diablo ballet

Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director



Photo by Tue Nam Ton

Join Us for the Remainder of Our 2026-2027 Season!

A Midsummer Night's Dream

February 12 - 13, 2027

The February program features Julia Adam's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a playful ballet inspired by William Shakespeare, where fairies, sprites, and young lovers get tangled in magical adventures. The program also includes George Balanchine's *Valse-Fantaisie* dazzles with exciting, dancing set to Mikhail Glinka's sweeping melodies and a reprise of Paul Taylor's *Company B*, which brings high-energy jazz and jitterbug to life with the iconic music of the Andrews Sisters.

Carmen

March 19 - 20, 2027

Carmen, choreographed by Brian Enos with costumes created by Patricia Barker, is a lively and dramatic ballet that tells the story of a strong-willed woman named Carmen who values her independence and follows her heart. This brand-new ballet features the iconic music from *Carmen*, one of the most frequently performed operas in the world.

Val Caniparoli's Red Riding Hood

May 14 - 15, 2027

Internationally renowned choreographer Val Caniparoli brings a beloved fairy tale to life with a thrilling ballet inspired by *Red Riding Hood*. Drawing from Charles Perrault's classic story, this new work blends charm, suspense, and timeless lessons about trust and courage. Also included is Gerald Arpino's beautiful *Reflections*, a neoclassical, pure dance ballet complete with high lifts, a flying pace, and classic beauty!

Purchase tickets: 925.943.SHOW / lesherartscenter.org
Information and Groups: 925.943.1775 / diabloballet.org