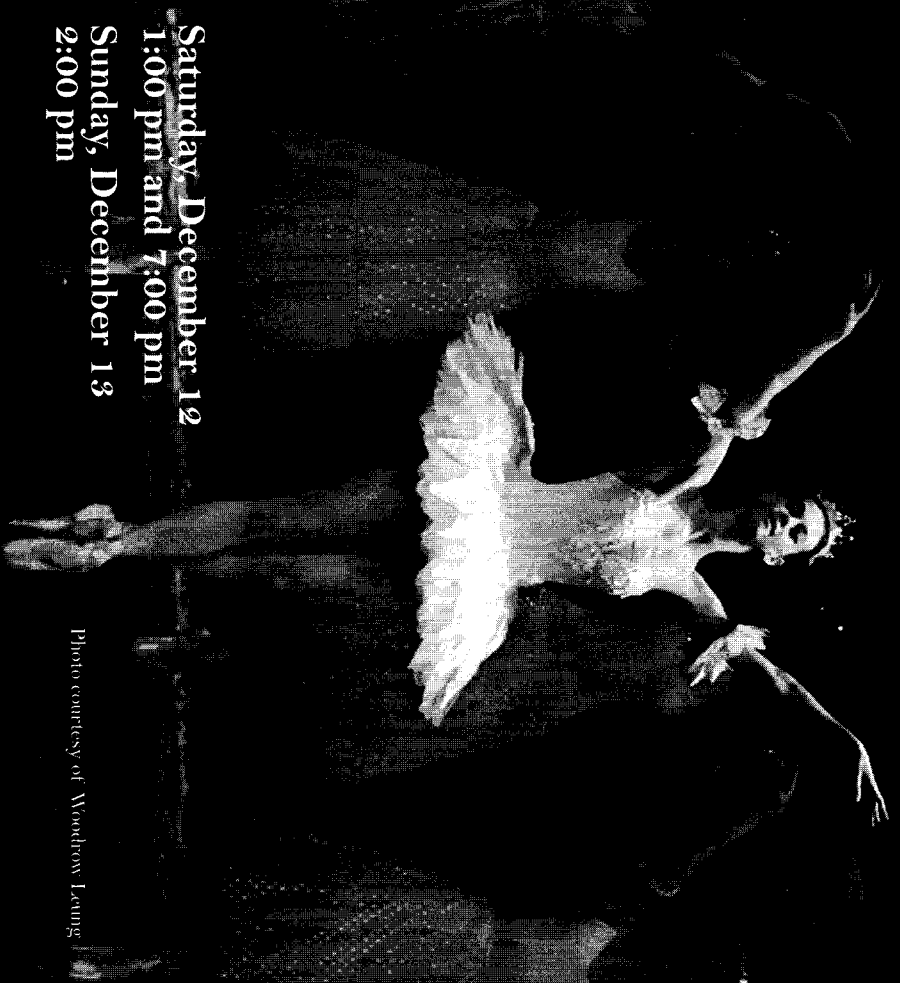




The Noycracker 2009



Saturday, December 12

1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 13

2:00 pm

Photo courtesy of Woodrow Leung

Stansbury Theatre, Lawrence University

Message from our Board President



The Makaroff Youth Ballet (MYB) welcomes you to this enchanting performance of the Nutcracker! Inspired by the glorious music of Tchaikovsky, the dedicated dancers of MYB will bring to life the brilliant and expressive choreography of our Artistic Director Jeanette Makaroff in our own unique version of this enduring holiday classic. All of us at MYB hope that this great work of ballet art, freshly re-created with each performance, will be an enriching and memorable part of your holiday season.

The MYB respectfully continues the legacy of Nikolai and Juanita Makaroff who first began instructing the Fox Valley's youth in the art of ballet 50 years ago. Our Artistic Director and renowned choreographer, Jeanette Makaroff, offers the youth of the Fox Valley and surrounding areas pre-professional training of the highest quality. Ms. Makaroff's skill in training proves to lift the spirit, character, as well as the cultural appetite of our dancers and community for a lifetime.

MYB affords its dancers the rare opportunity to perform both classics of the ballet repertoire and exciting new choreography of the highest caliber. The talented dancers of the MYB company have been selected by audition, and include many of the accomplished dancers trained at the Makaroff School of Ballet. MYB is a unique artistic treasure in our community because of the outstanding performing opportunities it provides for talented and dedicated young dancers from across the Fox Valley. Many former MYB dancers have gone on to perform in prestigious ballet and dance companies across the country.

MYB performances are underwritten by the non-profit organization, Ballet, Inc. If you wish to support this organization, contribution envelopes are available at the reception tables. For more information, please visit our website at www.makaroffyouthballet.org.

We offer our thanks to all of the dancers, parents, volunteers, theater professionals at Lawrence University, our fine Executive Director, Linda Drezdton and our outstanding Artistic Director, Jeanette Makaroff. We thank and also ask you to recognize our generous business, corporate and individual supporters: without their help this performance would not be possible. Finally, we thank you, our audience, for supporting and encouraging the company's mission which is to make the fine art of ballet accessible to the community through professionally choreographed performances performed by our own youth ballet dancers of the Fox Valley and the surrounding areas.

We hope you enjoy the performance!

Charles L. Szews
Board President

Message from our Artistic Director



Welcome to our 2009 Holiday Concert. This is Makaroff Youth Ballet's second offering of the full-length holiday classic of The Nutcracker Ballet. The dedicated audiences often tell me how they enjoy following the growth of our company members from year to year. Since 2007 when we performed our first full-length Nutcracker, many of our more experienced company members graduated from high school and went off to college, or entered a more professional track to boarding school in pursuit of a professional ballet career.

This year's company is composed of many new members ranging in age from 11 to 16 years old. Despite the age range, the experience level makes this ensemble of dancers a very new company!

Please indulge me as I take this opportunity to say how proud I am of this new company! The challenges have been enormous. Never underestimate the abilities of our youth, and believe the tried and proven adage that if you really focus your mind to it you can accomplish great things.

Welcome to our student guest performers from Makaroff School of Ballet. These young performers, through their dedication and commitment, show that the future of Makaroff Youth Ballet is solid.

It is my pleasure to welcome back to our Holiday Concert stage, Ms. Lauren Nasci. This year, Lauren is dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. MYB audiences may remember Lauren as she progressed from portraying Clara in our Nutcracker Act II, to dancing the First Act Giselle solo, an honor reserved for the most accomplished dancers. Lauren left MYB two years ago to continue her ballet studies at the Milwaukee Ballet School. Welcome home Lauren and thank you for introducing Mr. Acee Laird, also from the Milwaukee Ballet School and dancing the role of "Her Cavalier." Welcome, Acee!

At one point this fall I was seriously concerned that the influenza might curb this year's production, but it just proved to be a minor bump in the road. Here we are! Please enjoy!

Jeanette Makaroff
Artistic Director

Program Notes



The Nutcracker

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Act I

The story of the Nutcracker takes place in the 1850s in a German town on Christmas Eve. Clara's family has just hosted a grand Christmas party. Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather, and his nephew join the festivities. Herr Drosselmeyer is a toymaker and magician who enjoys teasing the children with disappointing gifts and redeems himself by bringing his wonderful dancing dolls to life. Drosselmeyer has brought a special gift for Clara, a toy Nutcracker in the shape of a soldier prince. The present is Clara's favorite. During the party Clara's brother, Fritz plays roughhouse with the Nutcracker and breaks it. Clara carefully puts her wounded Nutcracker into her doll bed before going upstairs to her own bed.

That night Clara dreams that mice fight a terrible battle with the toy soldiers. The Nutcracker Prince joins the battle but is overcome by the Mouse Queen. Clara saves him by throwing her shoe at the Mouse Queen. The Nutcracker is instantly transformed from a wooden toy to a handsome prince. He is so happy to be saved by Clara that he invites her to accompany him on a journey to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Act II

Arriving in the Kingdom of Sweets, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her court of flowers. They are so pleased with Clara that sweets from many lands are invited to entertain her. Finally, their dances draw Clara's lovely dream to a peaceful close.

About the Makaroff Youth Ballet



Makaroff Youth Ballet (MYB) is a non-profit youth ballet company serving the people of the Fox Valley and surrounding communities. Our mission is to make the fine art of ballet performance accessible to the community through its talented young dancers.

Our focus is to provide our dancers with superior ballet training and pre-professional performance experience. By doing so, we also provide the public with the wonderful opportunity to see our youth in high quality and unique performances.

MYB is comprised of advanced and dedicated young dancers from the Fox Valley and surrounding communities.

The young dancers in this performance appear courtesy of Makaroff School of Ballet; they are aspiring to become members of MYB.

Makaroff Board of Directors



Charles Szews, President
Rochelle Szews
Leslie Michellie
Jiliana Bartos

Juanita Makaroff, Emerita member
Matthew Michellie, Advisor
The Rev. Augustine Serafini, Advisor



Makaroff Youth Ballet
Jeanette Makaroff, Artistic Director
The Nutcracker, 2009
Saturday, December 13, 2009 - 1:00 pm and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 14, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.

Concert Sponsors
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The Nutcracker

ACT I

Dancers

Herr Drosselmeyer	MJ Marsh
His Nephew	Saul Roselaar
Dolls	Payton Bayer, Blake Borries
Fritz	Abi Aswege
Clara	Brooke Bayer
Dr. Silverhaus	Raymond Hestres
Mrs. Silverhaus	Adriane Melchert
Party Guests	(Parents) John Bartow, Samantha Beran, Rachel Cisler, Alissa Ehlers, Terry Ertl, Madison Hardt, Steve Helpfrey, Andy Pfaffenbach
Party Children	Kate Aswege, Eden Bayer, Jiliana Griesbach, Lauren Koenen, Miranda Tran Ngoc, Lauren Twomey, Hannah Westra, Rachael Wirth
Maids	Abbey Edmonds, Brigid O'Leary
Grandmother	Juanita Makaroff
Grandfather	Joe Hopfensperger
Mice	Kaylann Adler, Ariadna Lazcano, Ximena Lazcano, Annika Schmidt, Keanna Schulz, Sophie Ulman
Mouse Queen	Amy Van Asten
Soldiers	Tommy Albers, Reagan Blohowiak, Paige Hardt, Rauli Lazcano, Claire Schauf, Sophie Wiswall
Snow Queen	Ashlee Borries
Snow Flakes	Samantha Beran, Aspen Borries, Anna Farrow, Rebecca Fitton, Madeline Ganther, Madison Hardt, Magie Jerome, Kyra Meidam, Adriane Melchert, Naomi Roselaar, Libby Westra

The Nutcracker

ACT II

Dancers

Sugar Plum Fairy	Lauren Nasci
Her Cavalier	Acee Laird
Dew Drop Fairy	Rebecca Fitton
Angels	Naomi Roselaar, Libby Westra
Spanish	Madeline Ganther, Kyra Meidam
Arabian	Anna Farrow
Chinese	Payton Bayer, Mandy Behm, Rachel Hyland
Russian	Samantha Beran, Alissa Ehlers, Madison Hardt, Maria Koneck
Shepherdess	Lauren Koenen, Vidushri Mehrotra, Miranda Tran Ngoc, Rachael Wirth
Sheep	Lauren Twomey
Wolf	Abbey Edmonds
Ladies in Waiting	Abbey Edmonds, Lauren Twomey
Lead Flowers	Ashlee Borries, Aspen Borries, Madeline Ganther, Kyra Meidam
Flowers	Abi Aswege, Payton Bayer, Mandy Behm, Blake Borries, Rachel Hyland, Maggie Jerome, Anais Tran Ngoc, Kaila Vander Wielen
Mother Ginger	Rachel Cisler
Her Children	Kaylann Adler, Madylin Butler, Annabel Condit, Marina Helein, Ariadna Lazcano, Annika Schmidt
Clowns	Kate Aswege, Jaiiana Griesbach, Hannah Westra

Choreography	Jeanette Makaroff
Costumes	Jeanette Makaroff and MYB Staff
Lighting Designer	Richmond Frielund
Stage Manager	Jeni Klenke
Technical Assistance	Lawrence University Staff and Friends of MYB
Program Design & Print	Optima Graphics

Funding for this year's production is provided, in part, by a project grant from unrestricted funds within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

Featured Nutcracker Dancers



Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lauren Nasci started dancing at two and a half years old. While in New Mexico she received her training at On Stage and New Mexico Ballet. When she moved to Wisconsin she enrolled at Makaroff School of Ballet. There she trained for five years and was in the Fox Valley Youth Ballet, the company attached to the studio. Her sophomore year she moved to Oak Creek and started further training at the Milwaukee Ballet School and has been there for three years. She has also done summer programs at Milwaukee Ballet, Boston Ballet, Atlanta ballet, and Joffrey Midwest. Lauren has been in such performances as: *The Nutcracker*, *Little Match Girl*, *Coppelia*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Snow White*.



Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Acee Laird joined the Milwaukee Ballet School in 2007, where he is receiving his training from Karl von Rabenau and Rolondo Yanes. He is currently a junior at Saint Thomas More High School. Acee's roles have included: Gargoyle in *Snow White*, and Russian and Waltz of the Flowers in the *The Nutcracker*. In 2008 and 2009 Acee participated in the Milwaukee Ballet Summer Intensive Program. This will be Acee's third year dancing Classical Ballet. Acee would like to give a special thanks to his father, Allan Laird and Lauren Nasci.

Congratulations Makaroff Youth Ballet!
The arts enrich us all.
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Makaroff Youth Ballet Dancers



Abi Aswege is currently a sixth grader at Emanuel Lutheran, New London. She is dancing the role of Fritz and a Flower. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed performing it!

Payton Bayer, twelve years old, is a seventh grader at St. Joseph's Middle School. Her favorite ballet is Swan Lake. She feels incredibly blessed to be able to express and transform herself through the magical world of ballet.

Mandy Behm is a fifth grader at Greenville Middle School. She is excited about dancing her parts as a Flower and a Chinese dancer in this year's performance. She loves leaping, turning, and Nutcracker music.

Samantha Beran is a sophomore at Kaukauna High school. She will be playing the parts of a Snowflake, a Mother, and a Russian Dancer. She would like to thank Ms. Makaroff and her parents for this opportunity.

Ashlee Bormes is a junior at Neenah High School and is thrilled to be performing as the Snow Queen and a Lead Flower. This is her fifth year dancing with MYB and she hopes the magic of The Nutcracker fills everyone's heart with the joy of the season.

Aspen Bormes is an eighth grader at Seton Middle School and has been dancing with MYB for four years. She is performing as a Snowflake and a Lead Flower. Aspen hopes everyone feels the excitement of this wonderful ballet.

Blake Bormes is excited to be dancing the

role of Harlequin and a Flower. She is a seventh grader at Seton Middle School, and it is her first year performing as a MYB dancer. Blake loves performing and spreading the Christmas spirit.

Anna Farrow is a senior at Kaukauna High School. She will be dancing the role of a Snowflake and Arabian. This will be her last Nutcracker at Makaroff School of Ballet and hopes you will enjoy the performance and the work that went into it.

Rebecca Fitton, a freshman at Appleton North, is excited to participate in her eighth Nutcracker. This year, she will perform the roles of Dewdrop Fairy and a Snowflake. Rebecca would like to thank her friends for keeping her motivated through all the endless rehearsals, and her lovely family for supporting her whole dance career.

Madeline Ganther, a sophomore at Notre Dame Academy, This is her fourth year participating in the Nutcracker. She is performing as the role of Spanish, a Lead Flower, and a Snowflake. She is very excited to perform this year and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Madison Hardt is an eighth grader at Einstein Middle School. This is her first year dancing with MYB after just moving here from the Kansas City area. She hopes you enjoy this year's performance!

Makaroff Youth Ballet Dancers



Rachel Hyland has been dancing since age three. She is a seventh grader at JR Gerritts Middle School in Kimberly. Rachel is thrilled to be a part of Makaroff Youth Ballet and to be dancing in the Chinese Dance and Waltz of the Flowers in this year's production of the Nutcracker.

Maggie Jerome is a sophomore at Kaukauna High School. She is dancing the part of a Snowflake and a flower in The Nutcracker. She hopes that everyone will enjoy the show and have a happy holiday!

Kyra Meldam, a homeschooled freshman, dances the parts of a Snowflake, Spanish Dancer and Lead Flower. She hopes you will be blessed by the performance.

Adriane Melchert is a junior at Neenah High School and has been dancing since she was seven years old. She loves playing piano and bass, and especially ballet! She would like to thank her fellow dancers for all the encouragement and good times during rehearsal.

Naomi Roselaar is a freshman at Appleton North High School. This is her second year dancing with MYB and is very excited to be playing the roles of Angel and Snowflake. Naomi also enjoys performing with Appleton North Theatre and plays both cello and piano. She would like to thank the rest of the cast and especially Jeanette Makaroff for this wonderful experience.

Anais Tran Ngoc is a sophomore at

Appleton West High School and Renaissance School for the Arts. She has danced since she was seven, and has thoroughly enjoyed dancing the Nutcracker throughout the years. Happy Holidays!

Amy Van Asten is a junior at Kimberly High School. She has enjoyed participating in Makaroff Nutcracker for the past five years and this year is dancing the roles of Moor Doll and Mouse Queen. She hopes everyone enjoys the show as well as the holiday season!

Kaita Vander Wielen is an eighth grader at Classical School and is honored to be dancing the part of a Flower.

Libby Westra is a sophomore at Xavier High School. She is delighted to be playing the roles of an Angel and a Snowflake. She would like to thank her parents, her fellow dancers, Jeanette and God for this wonderful experience.

Rachael Wirth is a seventh grader at Roosevelt Middle School. In her spare time she enjoys reading, beading, and Poptropica. This past fall, Rachel started dancing en pointe, which she loves.

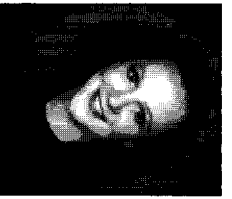
*To dance, put your hand on your heart,
and listen to the sound of your soul.*

Eugene Louis Faccuito

*After I perform, I hope the audience is excited, inspired,
and taken away from their everyday grind or work. Perhaps
even inspired enough to get up and dance themselves.*

Lenore Pavlakos

Makaroff Youth Ballet Staff



Jeanette Makaroff is the artistic director of Makaroff Youth Ballet and director of the Makaroff School of Ballet. Since returning to Appleton in 2000, she has enhanced MYB's visibility by adding two series of performances each year, our Holiday Concert and the Spring Concert. She has added 15 ballets to the repertory as well as continuing small company appearances through lecture demonstrations, mini-concerts, parades and collaborating with the other Fox Valley arts organizations.

Ms. Makaroff is a former dancer with the Milwaukee Ballet and the North Carolina Dance Theatre. She served as Ballet Mistress for the Milwaukee Ballet, company teacher for the PM Ballet and the North Carolina Dance Theatre, and served as a Resident Faculty of Milwaukee Ballet School from 1983 until 2000. During much of that time Ms. Makaroff taught for the prestigious Milwaukee Ballet trainee program and also conducted their national audition tour identifying talent to feed into the company. She received her training at the North Carolina School of the Arts and the School of American Ballet in New York City. Ms. Makaroff began her training in Appleton at the Makaroff School of Ballet.

Linda Drezdzon is the executive director of Makaroff Youth Ballet. Linda worked for 14 years for a major Fox Valley corporation in logistics and compensation. She then spent several years volunteering in the Conway, Arkansas and Appleton schools. She has a bachelors degree in Journalism from Marquette University and a masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Welcome to Makaroff Youth Ballet's 2009 presentation of The Nutcracker. I've often wondered why The Nutcracker has become such a holiday tradition that almost every ballet company performs it and families look for a performance in their area. A reluctant Tchaikovsky took forever to compose all of the movements and the work was strongly criticized when it debuted in 1892. Why has it stood the test of time? I think it's the fact that a story of a child and the magic of her dreams is told, not with words, but with music and dance. Even though the music is the same, each time you view the ballet, it's going to be a little different - maybe a different artistic director's interpretation and choreography or maybe a different cast of dancers. I hope you enjoy our version of this lovely tale, with Jeanette Makaroff's inspiration and our dancers telling the story. I also hope that throughout the holiday season, when you hear Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker music, you don't think of car companies and department stores, but the story of a little girl with dreams and our dancers telling you about her.

Linda Drezdzon
Executive Director

Acknowledgements



Makaroff Youth Ballet expresses its sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals and organizations.

Aspen Coffee
Harley Atkinson
The Bormes Family
Branching Out

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The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

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Juanita Makaroff

The Makaroff Family for their legacy
Mary Belle Potter and the Milwaukee Ballet
Renaissance School for the Arts
Simon Roseleaar
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TC Dance Club
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Our talented MYB dancers and their families
Parents and dancers of the Makaroff School of Ballet

Makaroff Youth Ballet would like to thank Robert W. Baird & Co. and Gabriel Furniture for donating funds to allow us to donate tickets to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Appleton and the Thompson Community Center.

Please visit the advertisers in our playbill and thank them for their support of our organization.