

# BALLET HAWAII

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BALLET HAWAII PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER HOLIDAY TRADITION WITH CONTINUING ISLAND TWISTS**

**HONOLULU** – Ballet Hawaii’s annual Nutcracker performances continue with their unique Hawaiian theme this December. Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet with choreography by Septime Webre will once again be set in the 1858 Kingdom of Hawaii. Three performances are scheduled at Blaisdell Concert Hall Friday through Sunday, December 13, 14 and 15.

Ballet Hawaii welcomes back Megan Fairchild as our Sugar Plumeria. A principal dancer from New York City Ballet, she is joined by her Cavalier, Gonzalo Garcia, a principal dancer from New York City Ballet.

This impressive cast of over 175 performers will include returning Pacific Northwest Ballet principal dancers Lesley Rausch, Lucien Postlewaite and, for the first time, Jerome Tisserand along with well-known Carolina Ballet principal dancers Margaret Severin-Hansen and Richard Krusch. Former Ballet Hawaii student and current principal dancer with Indianapolis Ballet, Yoshiko Kamikusa, will have her professional Hawaii debut in the role of Dew Drop. A new addition is Shane Ohmer, recently here with Phantom of the Opera, who will play characters David Kalakaua and the Popok’i (Cat).

Maestra Ann Krinitsky returns to conduct the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

“Once again, we are pleased to present this historical adaptation of the traditional holiday ballet, The Nutcracker,” said Pamela Taylor Tongg, Ballet Hawaii artistic director. “A fresh, new and engaging version of this much-loved timeless story, the production is meant to be a

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Ballet Hawaii Presents The Nutcracker Holiday Tradition With Continuing Island Twists –  
Page 2

celebration of who we are as a community. Audiences will also be awed by the dramatic scenery designed by Holly Highfill and lit by Trad A. Burns. And gorgeous costume design has been provided by Christine Darch, Kini Zamora and Anne Namba.”

Executive director John Parkinson elaborates “Where else but in Hawaii could we create such a wonderful fusion of the traditional Nutcracker story blended with rich history and island influences. We expect performances to again sell quickly with great acclaim.”

Ballet Hawaii Nutcracker schedule at Blaisdell Concert Hall:

**Friday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m.**

Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$125 and can be purchased at Blaisdell Box Office as well as other Ticketmaster locations. For more information, visit [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or call (800) 745-3000.

An Opening Night VIP Dinner Package is featured at Chef Chai on Friday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. including dinner, VIP ticket and reserved parking. For dinner reservations, call 808-521-8600 Extension 104. Additional information available at [ballethawaii.org](http://ballethawaii.org)

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## **PRODUCTION**

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## About Ballet Hawaii

Founded in 1976, Ballet Hawaii’s mission is to teach, promote, produce and present dance in Hawaii. Originally a support group for the Honolulu City Ballet, this non-profit organization is dedicated to enriching Hawaii’s cultural environment and providing opportunities for self-growth while instilling self-esteem and pride in its students, patrons and audiences. Its classes are focused on building confidence through accomplishment, while its presentation of world-class performances provides community with the priceless gift of professional, quality dance.

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