

The Nutcracker Kalamazoo

Presented by Ballet Kalamazoo



December 7th & 8th, 2024 at Comstock Community Auditorium

The Nutcracker Kalamazoo

PRESENTED BY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

AMY RUSSELL

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

MATTHEW RUSK

SEYONG KIM

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

HAILIE ADAMCZAK, CORRINA CLARK, AUBREY HORN

CAMILA DE LA MORA, ALYSON KIRKUM, DANI PROSCH

STORY

ADAPTED FROM

"THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING"

E. T. A. Hoffmann

CHOREOGRAPHY

AMY RUSSELL

SEYONG KIM

ALIYA VANTUINEN

LEXI RICH

MATTHEW RUSK

JOSEPH VANHARN

SARAH BOMBARD

JAMES C FELTON II

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky THE NUTCRACKER SUITE

MUSIC LICENSED BY ASCAP, BMI

Cast

HATTIE

Mara Juodawlakis

THE NUTCRACKER PRINCE

Matthew Rusk

THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Catalina Sackett

DROSSELMAYER

Seyong Kim

THE DEW DROP FAIRY

Violet Solis

THE MOUSE QUEEN

Eve Treat

THE SNOW QUEEN

Sophia Ljung

EDWARD

Enza Estrada

LEAD PARTY BOY

Skye Kirn-Upston

THE MOOR DOLL

Alivia Robinson

COLUMBINE DOLLS

Vivienne Ludtke

Inara Takace

Cast

CONTINUED

HARLEQUIN DOLLS

Eleanor Fraaza
Sophie Rominger

PARTY PARENTS

Briana Asmus
Christopher Nagle

MOUSE #1

Charlotte Peters

MOUSE #2

Morgan Schrock

SOLDIER #1

Lillian Start

SOLDIER #2

Quinn Ehlers

HATTIE'S FRIENDS

Sadye Kittle, Lydia Knapp, Sophia Ljung,
Catalina Sackett, Violet Solis, Devyn Pellegrino,
Lillian Start, Sharon Stanciu

EDWARD'S FRIENDS

Mila Guritz, Rosey Peters, Juliet Russell, Sylvia Russell,
Clementine Strachota, Maryella Woodhams

Cast

CONTINUED

PARTY GIRLS

Isabelle Fisher, Emma Knapp, Dani Kutchera, Avery Mayer, Olivia Parker, Tessa Pratt, Eve Treat

LITTLE SISTERS

Layla Mayer, Beatrice Dunfee, Aretha Chakma, Noelle Redwine, Emma Crooks, Amelia Sanchez, Reese Munson, Arya Vulli

TOY SOLDIERS

Eleena Betzle, Holland Burke, Madeline Campbell, Harper Chapman, Lila Fitzgibbon, Addison Hodge, Maya Kutchera, Daphne Liekis, August McClure, Jude Newhouse, Marcella Perez, Aurora Rendon, Violet Syzmanski

BABY MICE

Lina Ljung, Filip Ljung, Jami Kittle, Frankie Marcy, Delani Mason, June Morell, Primrose Peters, Leonie Sackett, Margaret White, Austin Wilkey

LITTLE MICE

Madeline Bivins, Evelyn Buckley, Livia Harger, Lorelei Kelly, Emma Knapp, Mackenzie McLean, Josy Modad, Harlow Morell, Valeria Corrales Jara, Lucia Corrales Jara

SNOW ANGELS

Ruby Beachamp, Mia Cetkovic, Penny Good, Emma Knapp, Aaliyah Lynch, Avery Mayer, Tessa Pratt, Sylvia Russell

Cast

CONTINUED

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Hailie Adamczak, Corrina Clark, Camila De La Mora,
Aubrey Horn, Alyson Kirkum, Dani Prosch

MICHIGAN SNOWFLAKES

Alivia Robinson, Catalina Sackett, Violet Solis,
Lillian Start, Sharon Stanciu, Eve Treat

DOVES

Mia Cetkovic, Mika Chow, Isabelle Fisher,
Eleanor Fraaza, Emma Knapp, Dani Kutchera,
Aaliyah Lynch, Tessa Pratt,
Margot Proxiv, Zhixuan Zhou

BLUE MOON ICE CREAM

Violet Solis, Alivia Robinson,
Sophia Ljung, Sharon Stanciu

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Hailie Adamczak, Corinna Clark, Camila De La Mora,
Aubrey Horn, Alyson Kirkum, Vivienne Ludtke,
Charlotte Peters, Dani Prosch,
Ruby Rafferty, Sylvia Russell, Lillian Start, Eve Treat

CANDY CANES

Eleanor Fraaza, Mariangela Corrales Jara,
Skye Kirn-Upston, Viviana Newhouse,
Sophie Rominger, Morgan Schrock,
Inara Takace, Maryella Woodhams

Cast

CONTINUED

LOLLIPOPS

Sophia Ljung, Lillian Start, Eve Treat

DONUTS

Enza Estrada, Sadye Kittle,
Lydia Knapp, Devyn Pellegrino

GINGERBREAD BAKERS

Penny Good, Mila Guritz, Carter Kaczmarek, Avery
Mayer, Eliza Mellis, Clementine Strachota, Lily
Murphy, Olivia Parker, Rosey Peters, Margot Prociw

APPLE BLOSSOM FLOWERS

Quinn Ehlers, Enza Estrada, Sophia Ljung,
Ruby Rafferty, Alivia Robinson, Lillian Start,
Sharon Stanciu, Eve Treat

Thank you!

ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE!

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

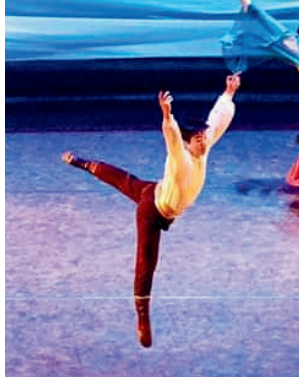
MATTHEW RUSK



Born in Tucson, Arizona, Matthew received his training at Houston Ballet Academy and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where he graduated with honors in dance. He also spent summers at School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and the Royal Ballet School. A graduate of Indiana University, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Ballet with an Outside Field in Psychology. While at IU, he was the recipient of the Premier Young Artist Award and the Ken C. Whitener Fund for Ballet Excellence, and performed principal roles in George Balanchine's Emeralds, Four Temperaments, Divertimento No. 15, and Swan Lake, and Marius Petipa's La Bayadere (Kingdom of the Shades). Professionally he joined Cincinnati Ballet in 2015 before transferring to Saint Louis Ballet in 2016, where he is in his seventh season. His repertory at SLB includes Romeo (Romeo and Juliet), Cavalier and Snow King (The Nutcracker), Prince (Cinderella), and principal roles in Balanchine's Who Cares?, Twyla Tharp's Nine Sinatra Songs, and Peter Martins's Hallelujah Junction. He has also guest performed with Nevada Ballet Theatre, Deos Contemporary Ballet, and Houston Repertoire Ballet.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Seyong Kim



Seyong Kim, Associate Professor of Dance at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI), holds an MA in Dance Education from New York University and an MA in Dance from Sung-Kyun-Kwan University in South Korea. He is a CMA (Certified Movement Analyst), a RSDE (Registered Somatic Dance Educator), a PBT (Progressing Ballet Technique) Certified Teacher, and an ABT® Certified Teacher (Primary through Level 7 of the American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum). Furthermore, he earned the Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University. Seyong has taught for the University of Georgia, Rutgers University, Kent State University, Randolph College, Palm Beach Atlantic University, World Dance Alliance-America (WDAA), American College Dance Association (ACDA), Alabama Dance Festival, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Grand Rapids Ballet, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, and Ballet 5:8. Seyong has danced with the Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center, Albania National Ballet Theatre, Traverse City Dance Project, TAKE Dance, and Oakland Ballet Company. His choreographic works have been presented at Landestheater Coburg in Germany, Taiwan JueDai Taipei International Dance Festival, International Contemporary Dance Festival of Mexico City (FIDCDMX), ProArteDanza in Canada, Seoul International Dance Festival in TANK, Battery Dance Festival, Palm Desert Choreography Festival, American Dance Guild Festival, Cleveland Dance Festival, Washington International Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, Orlando Contemporary Dance Choreography Festival, and CrossCurrent Asian American Dance Festival.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Hailie Adamczak



I started dancing when I was 5 years old at the Flint School of Performing Arts. I grew up dancing a lot of genres of dance such as Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Hip Hop. I've had the privilege of going to summer programs growing up, I've been to BalletMet's intensive in 2021, as well as Grand Rapids Ballet 2022, 2023, and 2024 with 50% as well as 75% scholarships.

Growing up I did The Nutcracker every year so being able to perform in The Nutcracker again is so exciting!

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Corrina Clark



Corrina attends Western Michigan University as a freshman dance major and dance team member. She formerly trained at Karen's School of Dance in Highland, Michigan, where she participated in their production of the Nutcracker ten times; a few of her most notable roles include Clara, Snow Queen, and the Sugarplum Fairy.

Corrina has big dreams of becoming a professional commercial dancer in the near future, but she also has a passion for teaching dance to the younger generations and helping them navigate their own love for the art. Corrina has loved the experience of guesting in Ballet Kalamazoo's rendition of the Nutcracker and is so excited for you to see what the cast has worked hard to put together!

Enjoy the show!

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

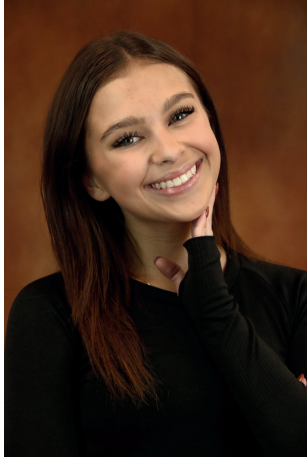
Camila De La Mora



Camila De La Mora (18) is a current freshman majoring in dance and exercise science at Western Michigan University. She is currently training primarily in ballet, modern and pointe techniques. Raised in metro detroit, she trained at Next Level Dance Center in all styles of dance and participated in their production of The Nutcracker fulfilling the role of “Queen Mouse”. She is excited to be a part of Ballet Kalamazoo’s Nutcracker and continue her dance career.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

ALYSON KIRKUM



Miss Alyson is currently a student at Western Michigan University studying Elementary Education and Dance. She is also a member of Western Michigan University Dance Team. Alyson helped develop the Special Needs/Inclusive Dance Program at her home studio when she was a student. She is trained in ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, tap, contemporary, pom and hip hop. Under the direction of Suzette D'Andrea, She is also certified in Cecchetti Grades 1-3. She was the Captain of the L'Anse Creuse High School Varsity Dance Team under the direction of Diana Balgenorth and was apart of the Pankow Performing Arts Dance program under the direction of Niki Thuman.

She has danced in numerous productions of BalletMet's The Nutcracker directed by Dmitri Suslov, Darielle Eberhard, Daryl Kamer, JoAnn Cusmano, and Judith Molina. She also had the opportunity to be apart of ABT's production of Sleeping Beauty. She has also won scholarships and titles through DMI, 24/7, Nuvo, and Showbiz. Alyson has trained in many different styles but ballet stole her heart at a very young age. It is her very favorite thing to teach and watch her students grow into beautiful ballerinas. Ballet Kalamazoo has been the biggest blessing for her and it's truly a home away from home! While training under Amy Russell in her Emerging Artist Mentorship Program, Alyson has learned so many skills on how to be a quality teacher, and she is so thankful for Amy's knowledge and kindness.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Dani Prosch



Dani Prosch is studying at Western Michigan University majoring in dance and minoring in business. She was born and raised in Grand Blanc Michigan where she did most of her ballet training at Flint School of Performing Arts under the direction of Karen Mills Jennings and Tara Gragg. Dani has been able to perform many beautiful ballets and contemporary pieces like Serenade, Nutcracker, Giselle, and many others. She also performed many solos like Dew drop, Marzipan lead, and even solos from Sincere Modulation choreographed by Darrell Moultrie and The Fate Symphony choreographed by Yuka Oba from the Grand Rapids Ballet. Dani has also trained at summer intensives which include The Cincinnati Ballet and American Ballet Theater (ABT). She is very excited to share her story and dancing with new communities around her and can't wait to continue pursuing her dance career.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Aubrey Horn



Aubrey Horn is currently a student at Western Michigan University, double majoring in dance and psychology. She has been training in dance since she was three years old with Glenn's School of Dance in Howell, Michigan run by Ginger Gray. Then at 10 years old, she auditioned for their traveling and competing dance company called Performing Arts Dance Theater. She's been competing ever since.

She was taking frequent classes with many professional artists including Andy Pellick, Suzi Taylor, Scott Myrick, and many other names you might recognize. She also has had training from three different Radio City Rockettes. Aubrey's love for dance continues to grow as her journey at WMU continues. She hopes to one day live out her dreams of performing in Los Angeles and tour with her favorite artists on stage. As much as she loves performing for herself, she also hopes to inspire others to live out their dreams as well!

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our Choreographers,
and our Team: Seyong Kim, Eun-Kyung Chung, Alyson Kirkum,
Lexi Rich, Aliya VanTuinen for coaching the dancers and for
all your support in getting the dancers ready for the stage!

Thank you to the Comstock Community Auditorium
Staff for your talents, hard work, and support to
bring our ballet to your beautiful stage!

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers and our
incredible, hardworking Backstage Crew
championed by Autumn Knapp. Ashlee Fraaza. You
are such an amazing team of strong women. Thank
you for all that you do for me and the dancers.

Thank you to our Special Guest Artists Matthew Rusk
and Seyong Kim and to the students of Western
Michigan University. Thank you for bringing so much
talent to our stage, for your time and travel and all of
you have added so much inspiration to our show.

Special Thanks to all our Dance Families for the hours
you put in driving your dancer to class and rehearsals.

Thank you so much for being a part of Ballet Kalamazoo!

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EMERGING ARTIST FUND

Shanon and Colin Browne

Guest Artist Fund

Melanie Osment

Tech Crew

Lighting Design: Teyia Artis

Sound: David Bolema

Fly Rails: Andy Green

Thank you for being the most amazing team and sharing your art with us! Your support and knowledge means so much to us.

MEDIA

Maria Newhouse Photography

Ever Where Films - Brandon Robison

COSTUME DESIGN

Emma Wang with Tutu Celeste

Enjoy the show!

Stay after the show to meet
the cast and get photos!

Our next semester of ballet begins January
6th! Email us at info@balletkalamazoo.com
to set up a free trial class in January!

Join us for "The Little Mermaid
on April 12th, 2025 at 1:00pm & 6:00pm
Comstock Community Auditorium

May 17th at 6:00pm & May 18th at 2:00pm
Classical VS Contemporary at
Comstock Community Auditorium

