

CENTRAL KY DANCE THEATRE

Presents:

WINTER GALA

FEATURING:



The Nutcracker Ballet

**OTIS A. SINGLETARY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

FRIDAY

12

DECEMBER

AT 7:00 PM





The Nutcracker Story

The Nutcracker Story

The Nutcracker Ballet is based on the story "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice" written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816. It is the story of a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King.

The Party: It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party. The children, Clara and Fritz, are excited to see all of their friends and family. The party grows festive with music and dance as Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives. He is a skilled clock and toy maker and always full of surprises. Drosselmeyer draws everyone's attention as he presents life-size dolls. They are the delight of the party, each taking a turn to dance. Drosselmeyer presents his favorite niece with a beautiful Nutcracker Doll and she is thrilled and dances with her new treasured gift. Fritz, jealous that Clara receives this present, takes the doll and breaks it. Luckily Uncle Drosselmeyer is able to "magically fix the doll for Clara. As the evening grows late, the guests depart and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, thinking of her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks to find him and falls asleep with him in her arms.

The Battle:: As the clock strikes midnight strange things begin to happen. Clara begins shrinking as everything around her grows larger. Clara is quickly surrounded by giant Mice and their Queen and King. The Rat King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one. After a terrible battle and a final blow from the Nutcracker, the Rat King drops to the floor thankfully with the help of Dr. Peep Squeak and the love of the Queen Mouse, the King is revived and humbly takes his family and leaves the Staulbaum home.

The Land of Snow The Nutcracker turns into a Prince and takes Clara on a journey to the Land of Snow, an enchanted forest wonderland where they are welcomed by the beautiful Snow Princess and Snow Prince. As they travel through the wonderland they watch the beautiful Guardian Angel and Angels as well as the Snow Queen, Princess, Prince and Snow Flakes dance with delight. The Snow Queen gifts Clara with a beautiful jeweled crown.

The Land of Sweets. The Prince then escorts Clara to the Land of Sweets where they are greeted by the beautiful petit angels and their leaders. Clara receives dances and gifts from around the world. She receives Lollipops from Sweet Treats, Chocolate from Spain, Coffee from Arabia, Laughter from the Polichinelles, Tea from China, A song from the Peppermint Reed Pipes, a Trepak dance from Russia, and a bouquet of Flowers. Lastly, Clara is gifted with a beautiful dance from the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The Prince arrives and he escorts Clara home and she says goodbye to all of her wonderful "Sweet" friends.

Clara's Home: Clara awakens and finds herself by the Christmas tree with her beloved Nutcracker. She believes it was all just a dream, but then she finds the beautiful crown on her head given to her by the Snow Queen.

So...was it a dream or was it real?





Who We Are

Central Kentucky Dance Theatre is Lexington's First community based ballet company. What does this mean? Our dancers can dance at any studio in the area and audition for our productions.

At this time our dancers come from: Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory, Gotta Dance Studios, Winchester Christian Ballet, Kentucky Repertory Dance Theatre, Dance Attack, Dancers Studio, Limelight Dance Studio, Traci Stone Dance School, and SCAPA. CKDT hopes to always bring dancers in the community together to create and dance together.

Additionally, for this show we welcome special performances from :

**Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble
Academy of Arts at January's
Kentucky Repertory Dance Theatre
Veterans Park Elementary Choir
SCAPA Middle School Choir**



Special Thanks to all of our sponsoring businesses and our supporting studios, our amazing guest performers, Dawn Freeman and Gotta Dance Studios, Ashleigh Freda and Dream Talent, Laurie Fields and Dancers Studio, Mark Summers, Mindy Stone, Winchester Christian Ballet, and all of our Students and Parents at Central Kentucky Dance Theatre



Guest Artists

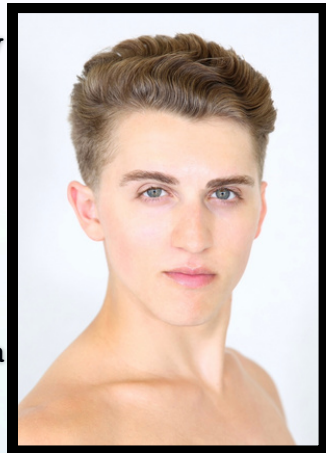
Tony Oates

Anthony Oates received his ballet training from the School of Richmond Ballet, under the direction of Igor Antonov, Malcolm Burn, and Arnott Mader. Anthony danced with Richmond Ballet's Professional Company for five seasons (2015 – 2020).

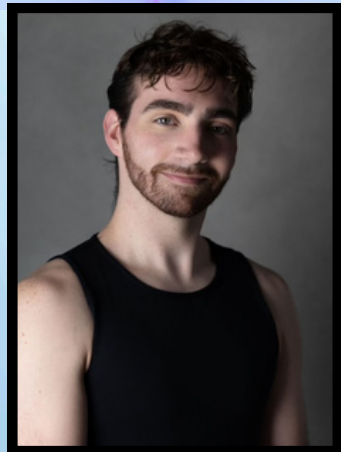
Favorite performances include George Balanchine's *Theme & Variations*, Salvatore Aiello's *Journey*, Black Swan pas de deux in Malcolm Burn's *Swan Lake*, Grande Pas de Deux in Stoner Winslett's *The Nutcracker*, and Snowboy in Virginia Repertory Theatre's *West Side Story*.

Over the past four years, Mr. Oates has performed as a guest artist with ballet companies and schools throughout the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, including Ballet Memphis' 2023 production of *Cinderella*, and most recently Charleston Ballet's *Dracula*.

Mr. Oates received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design from the Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) in 2022.



Nash Dawson



Nash (he/him) is a dance and theatre performance artist and educator originally from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where he began dancing with Jaclyn Trepanowski. He is a 2022 graduate of West Virginia University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Dance as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. During his time at WVU, Nash had the opportunity to perform works by Doug Varone, Paul Taylor, and Maureen Mansfield Kaddar. Following graduation, Nash danced with the West Virginia Dance Company under the direction of Toneta Akers-Toler for three seasons and performed works by Gerri Houlihan, Donald Laney, and Dane Toney. Recently, Nash has moved to Philadelphia, PA to join SHARP Dance Company under the direction of Diane Sharp-Nachsin and he continues to teach in public schools, refugee programs, and dance studios.



Guest Artists

Samantha Koon



Samantha is the Artistic Director at Winchester Christian Ballet and a private instructor in Lexington. She trained at programs including American Ballet Theatre, Louisville Ballet, Gregory Hancock Dance Theater, GSA Kentucky and Cincinnati Ballet, and earned multiple full scholarships, including to the Aurora Bosch Intensive (KY 2019), Grand Premier Invitational, and Indianapolis Ballet Academy.

Samantha is a graduate and former company member of Kentucky Ballet Theatre. Her passion continues year-round: she choreographs each summer for Ballet Under the Stars and furthers her own training at institutions such as Ballet Arts Center for Dance in NYC and the Royal Ballet School



Molly Booth



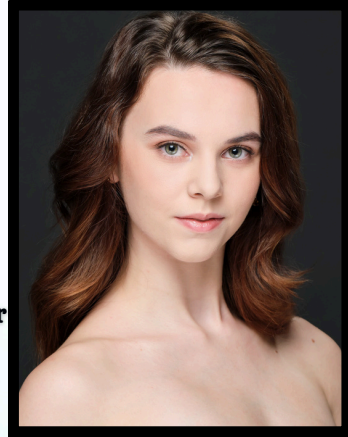
Molly trained at Beckley Dance Theatre School since the age of 3. She attended Summer Intensives at Winthrop University, Brenau University, Western Kentucky University, and Louisville Ballet. She continues her studies at Western Kentucky University where she is a dance major and a musical theatre minor. She is a member of WKU Dance Company. Molly has been dancing various roles in the Nutcracker for the past 10 years.



Guest Artists

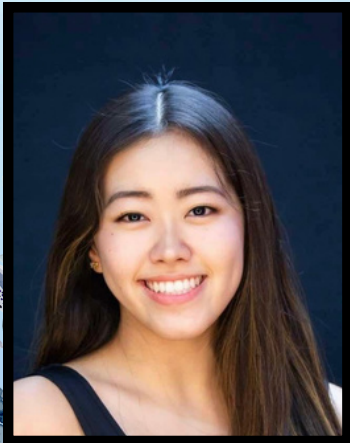
Skylar Eads

Hailing from Georgetown, KY, Skylar Eads began her training at Kentucky Ballet Theatre under academy director, Rafaela Risco. At age 11 she began training at United Fine Arts Academy (Angelica South) and Bluegrass Youth Ballet (Adalhi Aranda). In 2019, Skylar then moved her studies to Winston-Salem where she trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She earned her high school diploma in May 2023, and anticipates receiving her B.F.A in December, 2026. Under the guidance of Susan Jaffe, Endalyn Taylor Outlaw, Angie Sansone, Laura Martin, Jared Reddick, Phillip Broomhead, Ilya Kozadayev, Emily Nicolau, and Ashley Lindsay, Eads has honed her proficiency in classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques. During her time at UNCSA, Eads has performed in many prominent works such as Ilya Kozadayev's *The Nutcracker*, Claudia Schreier's *First Impulse*, Endalyn Taylor Outlaw's *Shostakovich Suite*, and George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes*. Additionally, she is well-versed in dramatic studies and vocal performance, complemented by a rich background in literature and writing. Skylar is passionate about bringing emotional depth to roles and choreography through meticulous character development and embodiment.



Sakura Yamashita

Sakura Yamashita is a student at Western Kentucky University and is a proud teacher at Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory, Gotta Dance Studio, and Dancers' Studio. She graduated from Lafayette High School in 2023 where she trained as a ballet major, as well as professionally training at Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory in 2020-2021. Sakura has won the title Miss Dance of the Bluegrass 2023, MADI Grand Champion Winner 2022, and has also played the role of Sugarplum, Snow Queen, Arabian, Clara, and many more throughout her years participating in the *Nutcracker*! This is Sakura's fifth year teaching and she loves to share her passion of dance through choreographing and teaching, and can't wait to work with the students more on future projects!



Winter Gala

Central Kentucky Dance Theatre believes in artists working together!! Enjoy our amazing guest for the first act of our Winter Gala.

1. Veterans Park Elementary Choir

Director: Crystal Peters

Singers: Alex Shinn, Allie Bass, Amelia Honaker, Anna Rothrock, Annabelle Casey, Benett Amick, Brooke Henry, Brooks Roberts, Brooksie Burk, Caroline Dvork, Charice Bet, Charlie Potorff, Clara Bell, Collin Jones, Connor Lucas, Corie Quillian, Dylan Castro-Gipson, Eela Upton, Ellie Jones, Emily Jones, Eva Purcell, Evelyn Fobare, Grant McLaughlin, Griffin Robinson Gwendolyn McDowell, Haley Kaper, Harlow Ward, Hinson Benedict, Isabelle Fisher, Jonathan Ednacot, Juliette Mazzocchi, Kira Sammons, Kylie Johnson, Lainey Swink, Leighton Reilly, Lily Keys, Lola Hardwick, Londyn Cecil, Luna Elliott, Malachi Bridges, Mark Watkins, Masa Qadah, Norah, Norah Wilson, Reagan Coffman, Reed Caldwell, Riley Shortridge, Savannah Spalding, Simon McCullough, Skyler Blethen, Sophia Ong, Sophia Shackelford, Sydney Leemhuis, Truby Smith, Vivianne Scutchfield, Wyatt Marion

Musical Selections:

Here Comes the Snow by Teresa Jennings

Jingle Bell Rock by Bobby Helms

Blitzen's Boogie by Teresa Jennings and arranged by Paul Jennings

Jingle Jive arranged by Teresa and Paul Jennings

2. Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory

"Sweet Gifts and Holiday Dreams"

Music: Tiny Dancer

Musical Arrangement and Musicians: Shannon Pyles, Rachel Yanarella

Produced by: Buck Reynolds

Dancers: Little Girl: Eva Thompson Ballerina: Lilly Rhodes

3. Kentucky Repertory Dance Theatre

Director: Nancy and Rob Durell

"Joy to the World"

Music: King and Country: Joy to the World

Dancers: Sials Baunach, Lindsay DeVore, Grace Heffebower, Elisabeth Howard, Thaddeus Jones,

Alyssa Kahmann, Briahna Kahmann, Gideon Logsdon, Mollie Martin, Rachel Sadler, Naomi

Segre-Lewis, Josie Sarang Sims, Noelle Stevenson, Anna Waldrop, Georja Wilson

4. SCAPA Advanced Middle School Choir

Director: Amanda Wells

Singers: Lyrric Baker, Laney Bay, Thomas Beeker, Elaina Cox, Cambell Cranfill,

Caroline Crawford, Enoch Emanga, Brady Fields, Braelyn Fulz, Leah Gillispie, Addie Graves,

Sophie Hill, Evey Jarvis, Ellie Karl, Kate Krebs, Leah Leachman, Emory Marsh, Lily McCaffrey,

Stella McQuerry, Connor Murphy, Reagan Pyne, Aven Sproul, Olive Spry, Henry Walter

Musical Selections:

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem by R. Fisher Boyce

Joy to the World by Isaac Watts

Silent Night by Joseph Mohr

Carol of the Bells by Wilhousky and Leontovich

(5 minute Pause)

The Nutcracker

Artistic Director: Leah Summers

Managing Director: Melissa Rhodes

Public Relations Director: Pamela Thompson

Technical Director: Danny Bowling

Technical Director Assistant: Singletary Technical Staff

Guest Companies:

JADCO Contemporary Dance Company: January Wolfe Administrative Artistic Director for the School.

Rob Royce Choreography and Director for Nutcracker Suite

Ballet Mistresses Kelly Reese and Jesse Tidquist

Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble: Director of the Louisville Ballet School: Christy Corbitt Krieger

Brienne Wiltsie: Program Manager: Louisville Youth Ensemble

Stage Manager: Kalli Auther

Backstage Crew: Ashley Ross, Sakura Yamashita, Camille Roy, Angelia Stephens, Elisabeth Howard

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography: Leah Summers

Lights: Danny Bowling

Sound: Singletary Technical Staff

Digital Projections: Winter Gala by Melissa Rhodes and Nutcracker by Theatreave

Set Design: Gina Sandlin

Special Choreography: Jerry Rose (Arabian) Suzanne Thomas (Peppermint Reed Pipes)

Sakura Yamashita (Gypsy Dolls) Rob Royce (Tea from China, Flowers for Clara, Polichinelles, La Petit Peppermints)

DIGITAL PROJECTIONS BY
THEATREAVE
THEATREAVE.COM

Act 1: Scene 1 Clara's Home (In Order of Appearance)

Clara: Kate Byerly

Clara's Mother: Pamela Thompson

Uncle Drosselmeyer: Travis Summers

Grandmother: Katie Summers

Clara's Sisters: Sophia Dezarn, Ella Buckler, Leila Vakil, Eva Thompson Fritz: Blake Summers

Party Guests: Renee Jylkka, Andy Jylkka, Morgan Dezarn, Joshua Steele, Emily Yalnazov,

Quinn Daugherty, Scott Hunt, Grace Hunt, Liz Buckler, Doug Buckler

Party Children: Lyla Nahra, Carli Cheung, Harper Dillard, Norah Gilliam, Alaina Charles,

Tegan Pero-Gamble, Willow Kinniard, Carissa Duvall, Ella Miles, Anna Willoughby, Alice

Browne, Nora Peterson, Diana Jylkka, Charlotte Brown, Quinn Merlino, Josephine Jylkka,

Milly Millay, Sophia Nguyen, Claire Cooper, Madeline Robinson, Avery Duvall, Grace

Shepherd, Chyloh Ireland

Little Miss Dolls: Maddie Means and Gabriella Maldonado

Ballerina Doll: Lilly Rhodes

Gypsy Dolls: Stori Hall, Naomi Segre-Lewis, Naomi Dever

Act 1: Scene 1 (Later that Night)

Mice: Lyla Nahra, Carli Cheung, Harper Dillard, Norah Gilliam, Alaina Charles, Tegan Pero-Gamble, Willow Kinniard, Carissa Duvall, Ella Miles, Anna Willoughby, Alice Browne, Nora Peterson

Dr. Peep Squeak: Alice Browne

Queen Mouse: Bridgette Hagan

King Rat: Margee Potts

Nutcracker Prince: Nash Dawson

Act 1: Scene 2 (Land of Snow)

Guardian Angel: Samantha Koon

Lead Snow Angels: Lily Martin, Lily Higgins

Snow Angels: Grace Hunt, Leila Vakil, Delanee Potts, Ella Buckler, Quinn Merlino, Regan Crawford, Ava Persinger, Amya Dever, Diana Jylkka, Sophia Dezarn, Naomi Dever, Margee Potts

Snow Queen: Alaina Sandlin

Snow King: Tony Oates

Snow Princess: Lexis Hall

SnowFlakes:(Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble)

Marlie Smead, Isabella Tucker, Rosalyn Leavitt, Malan Schnuerle, Kate Ditto, Claire Dennison, Sophia Sherrill, Viviana Hill, Emerson Ward, Emori-Leigh Lawson, Claire Stivers, Alannah Brody, Kassandra Freund, Esmé Ertz, Josie White, Sarah Skarbo

Intermission (10 Minutes)*Act 2: Scene 1 (Land of Sweets)*

Lead Angels: Lily Higgins, Lily Martin, Ava Persinger, Naomi Dever

Petit Angels: Josephine Jylkka, Milly Millay, Sophia Nguyen, Claire Cooper, Madeline Robinson, Avery Duvall, Grace Shepherd, Chyloh Ireland

Lollipop Princess: Leila Vakil

Lollipop Prince: Blake Summers

Sweet Treats: Leila Vakil, Ella Buckler, Sophia Dezarn, Eva Thompson, Blake Summers,

Bridgette Hagan, Anna Willoughby, Alice Browe, Nora Peterson, Willow Kinniard (Public Show)

Marika Verenchuk (School Shows)

Sugar Plum Fairy: Lilly Rhodes

Chocolate from Spain: Alaina Sandlin with Quinn Merlino, Regan Crawford, Margee Potts, Delanee Potts

Coffee from Arabia: Molly Booth and and Nash Dawson with Stori Hall, Lily Higgins, Lily Martin, Gabriella Maldonado, Ava Persinger, Maddie Means

Tea From China: Sakura Yamishita, Samantha Koon

Sugar Plum and Cavalier: Lilly Rhodes and Tony Oates

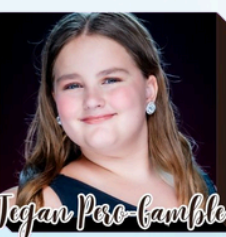
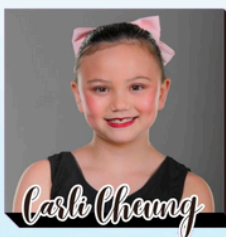
Russian Trepak: Skyler Eads Stori Hall, Alaina Sandlin with Naomi Dever, Delanee Potts,

Margee Potts, Regan Crawford, Quinn Merlino, Amya Dever, Bridgette Hagan, Grace Hunt

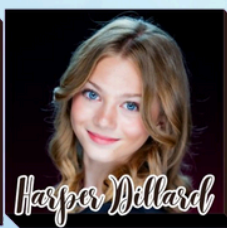
Clara and the Peppermint Reed Pipes: Kate Byerly with Lily Higgins, Lily Martin, Gabriella Maldonado, Maddie Means, Ava Persinger, Naomi Segre-Lewis

*Act 2: Scene 2 (Clara's Home)***Conclusion**

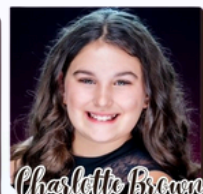
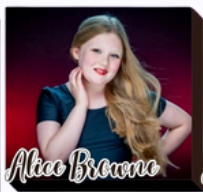
Level 2 Company Members



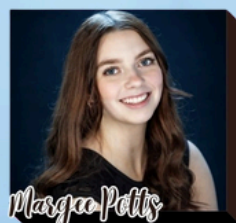
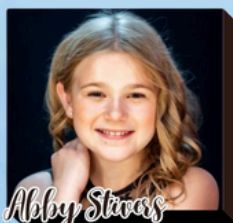
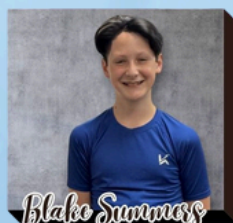
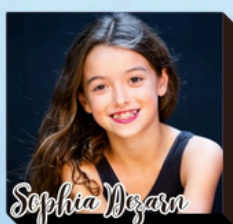
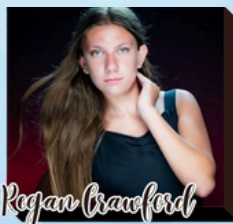
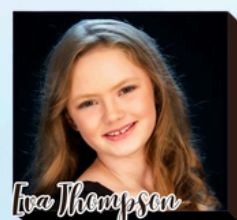
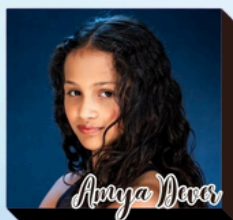
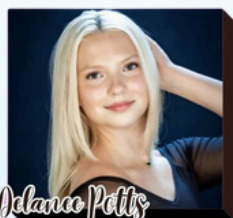
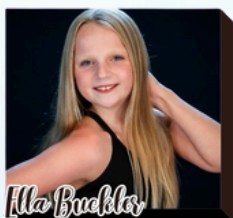
Level 3 Company Members



Level 3 Company Members



Level 4 Company Members



Level 5 Company Members



My favorite scene in the Nutcracker is the battle scene. I love seeing the comedy play out! It is different every year!



My favorite role in nutcracker is arabian because i just think its so beautiful and unique.



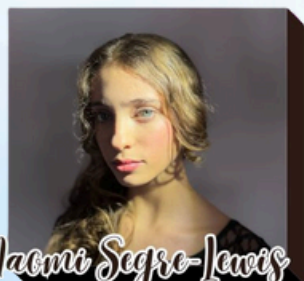
My favorite Nutcracker scene is snow scene because the music is so pretty and the ballet choreography is fun and challenging.



My favorite Nutcracker scene is the Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux! This is my favorite scene because it has both beautiful music and amazing artistry/dancing. The elegance and poise of the pas de deux really makes me want to keep watching and always puts a smile on my face!



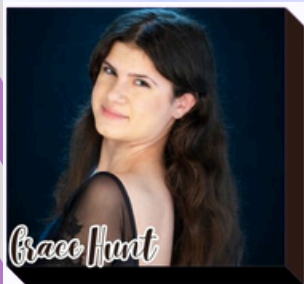
My favorite Nutcracker scene is the Land of Sweets because I love the variety of different dances and costumes!



My favorite scene from the Nutcracker is the sugar plum pas de deux because, "the music is amazing and powerful, the choreography is beautiful and creative, and I love the character of the sugarplum fairy and how different she is from the other roles.



Level 5 Company Members



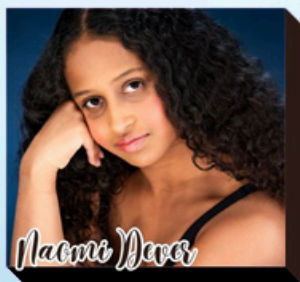
My favorite character is lead Arabian because she is elegant yet strong.



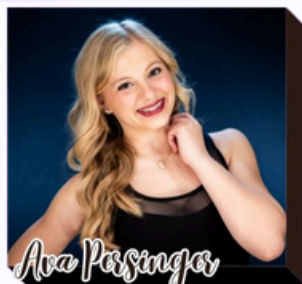
My favorite Nutcracker character is the Spanish Chocolate! The dancer is bold and confident and represents a beautiful culture.



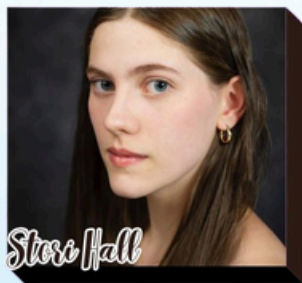
My favorite scene is snow because I really love the music and it is such a beautiful scene!



My favorite scene is snow because it is beautiful!



My favorite character is Coffee from Arabia, because I like to play the mysterious role while dancing.



My favorite character is Arabian because I love the different movement quality you get to do compared to usual ballet technique!



To the dancers.....

- Sophia D., We love watching you shine on stage - enjoy the show and we will smile ear to ear watching you! Love, Dad, Mom & Connor
- Willow: I could watch you dance for a lifetime and still enjoy every moment.
Love, Mom and Dad
- We are so proud of who you are NJ! Keep slaying dragons! Love you tons and tons!!!!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Finn
- Congratulations, Anna Willoughby! Your family loves you and is so proud to see you shine again in the Nutcracker!
- Lilly R. I am so proud of the person you are! I love watching you doing what you love! Keep reaching for the stars. Mom
- Good luck, Ella M.!! We love you and are so proud of your hard work. Can't wait to see your beautiful performance! Love, Mom and J-Man
- Ella M. Proud of all your hard work! You're awesome! Love you!
 - So proud of you Quinnie!! You're our favorite tiny dancer! Love,
Mommy and Tim
 - Leila, we are so incredibly proud of you! Keep shining! Love, Mom, Dad
and Emmett
- Good luck Regan! We are so proud of you! Have a beautiful show!
- Charlotte, may your dancing and smile light up the Nutcracker stage!
- We love you, Cara! We can't wait to see you on stage! Have fun dancing!
- We love you, Avery! We can't wait to see you on stage! Have fun dancing tonight!
 - Congratulations, Tegan! We love you and are so proud of all of your hard
work and dedication.
- Margee, our wonderful Rat King (and Chocolate from Spain, Russian Doll, and Snow Angel!) We are SO PROUD of the crazy juggling you've done the last 5 months with your studies, theatre, and dance! Nothing is impossible for you! Love, Mom, Daddy,
Delanee, Ome & Mr. Del, Grandma & Papa
- Delanee, our quiet beauty! Your middle name describes you perfectly: GRACE!
LOVE YOU, Mom, Daddy, Margee, Ome & Mr. Del, Grandma & Papa
- Eva, We love you to the moon, your friends and family are so proud of you and we can't wait to watch you dance tonight!





Good luck in your performance

Lily Martin!

Love, Mom and Dad



To the Party Parents!
Party like the
Stahlbaum's!
Enjoy your time on stage!

*Have a great
show dancers!*

**"YOUR BELIEF IN
ME MADE ME
BELIEVE IN
MYSELF. THANK
YOU FOR THE GIFT
OF DANCE."**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
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As a locally owned and family-run veterinary group founded by Dr. Jim Martin, we've been caring for the pets of Madison County for over 20 years. Today, we are honored to cheer on Dr. Martin's granddaughter, Lily Martin, as she pursues her passion for dance. Her dedication, discipline, and love for her craft inspire all of us.

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Congratulations, Lily! Your AAC family is cheering you on.





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Difference!**

We are Lexington's premier PreK-12 classical private Christian school. At Trinity, students aren't just taught what to learn. They are taught how to learn, and, more importantly, how to be lifelong learners.

Come discover how our school can nurture, prepare, and equip your child for a Christ-centered life of excellence.

Bring in this ad for a reimbursement of your application fee!

- ✓ Christ-centered Education
- ✓ Ranked #1 Christian School in Lexington Area
- ✓ Weekly Chapel and Daily Bible Classes
- ✓ Small Class Sizes
- ✓ 23 students recognized by GSP, 10 by GSA, and 17 by National Merit between 2013-2025

**Schedule a tour
today!**



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