
Central KY Dance Theatre
Presents :
WINTER GALA
FEATURING
THE NUTCRACKER
BALLET
Friday November 13th
7:00pm
Otis Singletary Center For the Arts
centralkyballetconservatory.com



About Central KY Dance Theatre

Central Kentucky Dance Theatre is Lexington's First community based ballet company. What does this mean?
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 eight different studios in this area! We love seeing these dancers come together to dance and create together.

Additionally at each of our public performances our first half of the show is dedicated to the community. We love having guest join us!
For this show we welcome performances from :

1. Theater Department from SCAPA of the Bluegrass
2. Kentucky Repertory Dance Theatre
3. Veterans Park Elementary School Choir



About the Artistic Director Leah Copley Summers



Leah Copley Summers has taught ballet for the past 33 years. Leah studied with Dr. Mary Marcuzzi along with many others as she attended pre-professional programs. Leah graduated Cum Laud with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education at Marshall University in 1991. After receiving her degree, Leah began her career as a ballet teacher, choreographer, and artistic director, with the River Cities Dance Company. She served as director for thirteen years working with both Marshall University and Shawnee State University to provide arts to the area community. Leah also worked as adjunct faculty at Marshall University and served on the faculty of the WV Governor's School for the Arts during her time in the Tri-state area. After moving to Cary, North Carolina Leah continued her career with the Cary Ballet Conservatory for 8 years where she worked as full-time faculty creating original story ballets and concert pieces. Moving to Lexington, KY Leah worked with the Bluegrass Youth Ballet and later became the founding director of the LDF Ballet Academy. Leah's greatest achievement has been the success of her students. Leah's students have gone on to study at prestigious arts school and continued on to careers as professional dancers, teachers and choreographers.

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to all of our supporting businesses, studios, parents and students!

We Appreciate You!!

Would you like to join CKDT?

Gotta Dance Studio, INC Winter Showcase!





Winter Showcase 2026

November 21st - *Showcase*

November 20th -*Rehearsal*

Times to be announced

Tates Creek High School Auditorium*

*New venue

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?

Guest Artist

Angelica South



Angelica South is originally from Traverse City, Michigan where she trained in classical ballet under the direction of Thomas Morrell. She attended The Harid Conservatory, American Ballet Theatre, and The Bolshoi Ballet Theatre summer programs. In 2013, she won first place in the Pas de Deux category at the Youth America Grand Prix, and was invited to the finals in NYC. The Bolshoi Ballet also invited her to attend their year-round school in Moscow, Russia.

Angelica danced professionally for six seasons with The Lexington Ballet. She performed many principle roles, The Sugar Plum Fairy (The Nutcracker), Alice (Alice in Wonderland), and Aurora (Sleeping Beauty), amongst many others. She danced with Allegro Dance Project for three seasons and was a guest artist with Virginia Youth Ballet and Northwest Michigan Ballet Theatre. She performed as Susan in the Lexington production of The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe in 2022 and 2023 under the direction of Sarah Henderson.

Currently, she is the Artistic Director of United Fine Arts Academy in Georgetown, KY and a Co-Owner of United Talent. Angelica has choreographed 12 original ballet productions for the company and has been a ballet competition coach since 2017. She was the rehearsal assistant with Lexington Ballet for the 2024-2025 season under the direction of Eric Troupe.

Through her coaching her students have placed in the Top 12 and 24 for their classical and contemporary performances at YAGP, and in the Top 10 at UBC, ADC/IBC, Etoile dance competitions. Graduated students have gone on to attend Cincinnati Ballet PTP, Nashville Ballet II, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Berklee College of Music and Dance, Florida Southern College, Point Park University, and Joffrey Ballet School in NYC.

Angelica lives in Lexington with her husband and three cats. She loves to hike, travel, and spend time with her family.

Daniel Scofield



Daniel Scofield joined Louisville Ballet as a Company Artist in 2022 and has performed roles and works including Romeo in Alun Jones' Romeo & Juliet, The Nutcracker and Sugar Plum Cavalier in Val Caniparoli's The Brown-Forman Nutcracker, an Ugly Stepsister in Alun Jones' Cinderella, Andrea Schermoly's Appalachian Spring, Ching Ching Wong's 502 and Grass Is Green, Adam Hougland's Broken Totem and Cold Virtues, and Anne Jung's #fourwithsix.

A Louisville native, Daniel began his performing arts training primarily in musical theatre, later focusing more heavily on dance. Daniel graduated Cum Laude from Butler University in 2021, earning a B.S. in Dance/Arts Administration and a Minor in Business. Repertoire performed at Butler included Paul Taylor's Piazzolla Caldera, Gerald Arpino's Light Rain, Patrick de Bana's Falling Sky, The Firebird, and The Sleeping Beauty.

Guest Artist

Jaxon Smith



Jaxon Smith is a San Diego native and began his formal ballet training with Golden State Ballet Academy in San Diego. After a few years he then began to dance in the company, Golden State Ballet. During his two years in the company, he was privileged to perform works of Justin Peck, Jorma Elo, Norbert De La Cruz III and Gabrielle Lamb to name a few. Jaxon then began performing with musical theater companies all around San Diego such as La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet Theatre, Moonlight and SDMT among others. You can also find Jaxon as a guest artist with The Lexington Ballet.



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.

Winter Gala

Excerpts from Annie Jr. Presented by SCAPA of the Bluegrass
Led by Alberta Lanceta Labrillazo
1. It's a Hard Knock Life
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Sung by the cast of Annie Jr.
2. Tomorrow
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Sung by Learah Walter and Canon Woodall

For Unto Us a Child is Born
Christopher Hogwood and George Frideric Handel
Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford
Simon Preston, Conductor
Meredith Fuller, guest choreographer
Dancers: Silas Baunach, Thaddeus Jones, Alyssa Kahmann, Briahnna Kahmann, Gideon Logsdon, Grace Heffelbower, Mollie Martin, Rachel Sadler, Josie Sims, Naomi Segre-Lewis, Audrey Sparks, Noelle Stevenson

Veterans Parke Elementary School Intermediate Choir
Led by Crystal Peters
1.Here comes the snow by Teresa Jennings
2.Blitzen's Boogie by Teresa & Paul Jennings
3.Jingle Jive by Teresa & Paul Jennings

Nutcracker 2026

Artistic Director: Leah Summers
Managing Director: Melissa Rhodes
Public Relations Director: Pamela Thompson
Director of Coaching, Program Consultant, Rehearsal Faculty: Christy Krieger
Technical Director: Danny Bowling
Technical Director Assistant: Singletary Technical Staff
Stage Manager: Kalli Auther
Backstage Crew: Charlie O'Dele, Kyra Kenyon, Eric Cheung, Cason Cheung
Backstage Crew: Alyssy Shanahan
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography: Leah Summers
Lights: Danny Bowling
Sound: Singletary Technical Staff

DIGITAL PROJECTIONS BY
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Digital Projections: Winter Gala by Melissa Rhodes and Nutcracker by Theatreave
Special Choreography: Jerry Rose (Arabian), Amy Tremine (Peppermint Reed Pipes)

Nutcracker 2026

Act 1: Scene 1 Clara's Home

(In Order of Appearance)

Clara: Ava Persinger Understudy: Maddie Means

Mrs. Stahlbaum: Erin Persinger

Drosselmeyer: James Martin

Aunt Ginger: Ashley Ross

Clara's Sisters: Alaina Charles, Ella Miles, Willow Kinniard, Alice Browne

Cousin Francine: Sophia Dezarn

Cousin Fritz: Henry Ross

Ballerina Doll: Naomi Segre-Lewis

Little Miss Dolls: Katherine Jenkins, Stori Hall

Gypsy Dolls: Allison Burch, Maddie Means, Gabriella Maldonado

Party Guests: Katie Salyers, Jack Salyers, Caitlin Faust, Walker Yanarella, Ashley Ross, Stuart Ross, Liz Buckler, Doug Newberry, Renee Jylkka, Andy Jylkka, Pamela Thompson, Bo Stivers

Party Children: Ryan Salyers, Diana Jylkka, Chyloh Ireland, Josephine Jylkka, Sophia Nguyen, Grace Shepherd, Madeline Robinson, Claire Cooper, Abby Holbrook, Elaina Prewitt, Liliana Jordan, Norah Gilliam, Tegan Pero-Gamble, Carli Cheung, Anna Willoughby, London Malone

Act 1: Scene 1 (Later that Night)

King Rat: Elisabeth Howard

Nutcracker Prince: Gideon Logsdon

Dr. Peep Squeak- Grace Shepherd

Mice: Caroline Martin, London Malone, Brioni Boyd, Phoebe Said, Ryan Salyers, Josephine Jylkka, Grace Shepherd, Madeline Robinson, Claire Cooper, Abby Holbrook, Sophia Nguyen, Chyloh Ireland, Malachi Bridges, Sophie Gusiev, Elizabeth Gusiev, Parker Karapandzic

Act 1: Scene 2 (Land of Snow)

Snow Queen: Kate Byerly

Snow King: Daniel Scofield

Snow Angel: Angelica South

Snowflakes: Clara (Ava Persinger), Snow Queen (Kate Byerly), Lily Martin, Stori Hall, Allison Burch, Naomi Segre-Lewis, Gabriella Maldonado, Angelica South, Maddie Means, Emily Vyalkova , Ella Buckler, Sophia Dezarn

Nutcracker 2026

Intermission (10 Minutes)

Act 2: Scene 1 (Land of Sweets)

Guardian Angel: Emily Vyalkova

Lead Angels: Josephine Jylkka, Sophia Nguyen, Grace Shepherd, Chyloh Ireland

Angels: Parker Karapandzic, Henry Ross, Brioni Boyd, Sophia Hagan, London Malone, Charlotte Chiu, Phoebe Said, Caroline Martin, Malachi Bridges, Abby Holbrook, Elizabeth Gustiev, Sophie Gustiev

Lollipop Princess: Kate Byerly

Sweet Treats: Tegan Pero-Gamble, Anna Willoughby, Alice Browne, Diana Jylkka, Carli Cheung, Liliana Jordan, Norah Gilliam, Willow Kinniard, Alaina Charles, Elaina Prewitt, Ella Miles, Eva Thompson

Tea From China: Lily Martin, Gabriella Maldonado, Katherine Jenkins

Peppermint Reed Pipes: Naomi Segre-Lewis, Gideon Logsdon, Maddie Means

Chocolate from Spain: Stori Hall and Sophia Dezarn, Ella Buckler, Abby Stivers, Eva Thompson

Clara: Ava Persinger

The Nutcracker Prince: Gideon Logsdon

Coffee from Arabia: Kate Byerly and Jaxon Smith
Stori Hall, Katherine Jenkins, Maddie Means, Lily Martin

Russian Trepak: Allison Burch, Ella Buckler, Sophia Dezarn, Abby Stivers, Eva Thompson, Emily Vyalkova
Mattie Jenkins, Anna Willoughby, Neya Sathya

Sugar Plum Fairy: Molly Booth
Cavalier: Daniel Scofield

Flowers for Clara/ Farewell to Clara
The Bouquet Fairy: Lily Martin

Demi Soloists: Ella Buckler and Sophia Dezarn

Flowers: Abby Stivers, Alice Browne, Neya Sathya, Mattie Jenkins, Eva Thompson, Willow Kinniard, Alaina Charles, Emily Vyalkova, Diana Jylkka, Ella Miles

Act 2: Scene 2 (Clara's Home)

Conclusion

Congratulations, Dancers!

From the first rehearsal to the final bow, you showed up and did the work.

Tonight it shows. Enjoy every second of it.



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Golisano Children's



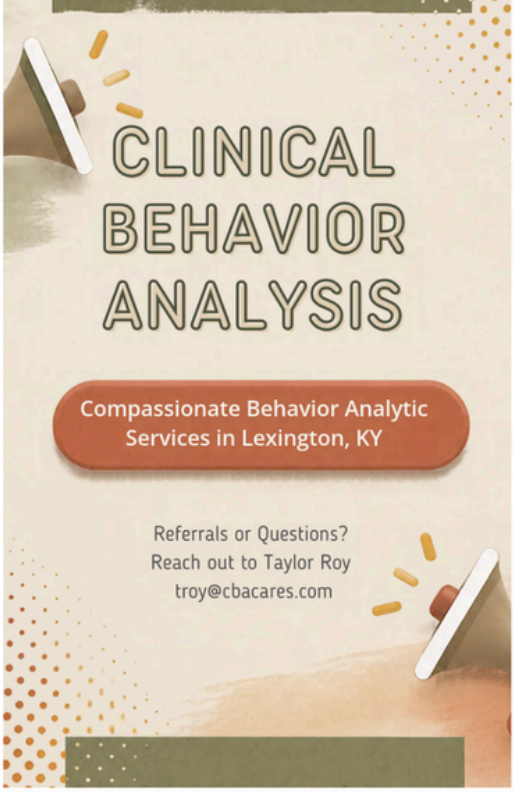
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SWEETEST GIRL YOU AMAZE US!
ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR
PERFORMANCE TONIGHT.
ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU DANCE
FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR HIM.

WE LOVE YOU!

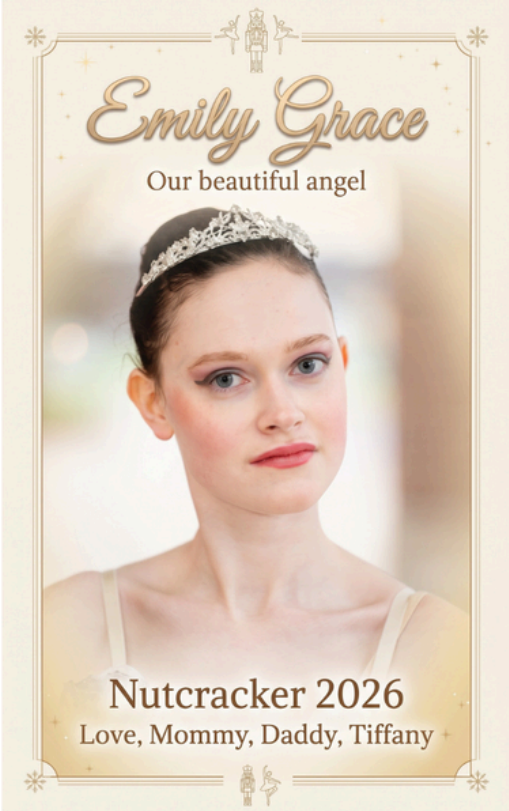
DADDY, MOMMA & BRAYDEN

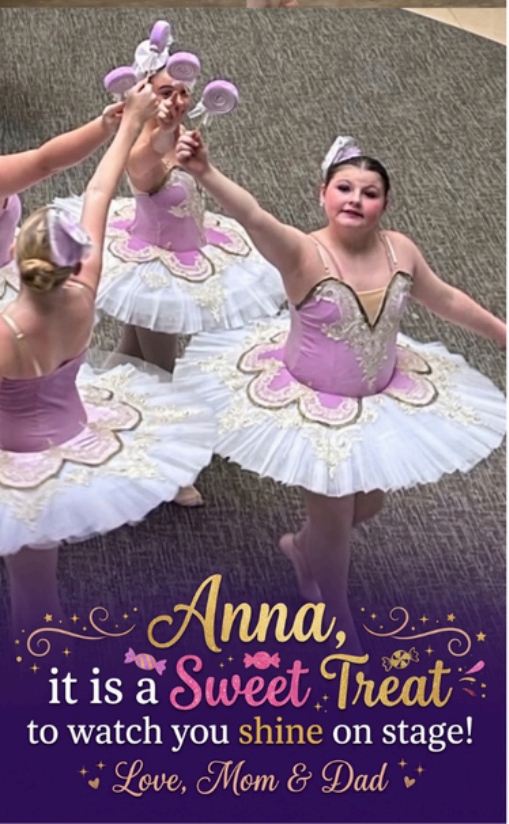


Grace, you are growing into a beautiful dancer and young lady! I am very proud of you. Enjoy your performance tonight!

Love, Nana


SHINE BRIGHT, ABBY!
KEEP DANCING, DREAMING, AND REACHING FOR THE STARS! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!


Emily Grace
Our beautiful angel
Nutcracker 2026
Love, Mommy, Daddy, Tiffany


Anna,
it is a Sweet Treat
to watch you shine on stage!
Love, Mom & Dad


To Ella Buckler:
We are so excited to watch you dance in all of your roles this year! We are so proud of our Ballerina Girl!



Maddie, your passion, dedication and hard work has turned your little girl dream into something truly special. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. You've learned, you've overcome and you've danced through it all. We will always be your biggest supporters.

Love Mom, Dad, Tasha, and many other family members and friends.






SOPHIA HAGAN


CHARLOTTE CHIU


HENRY ROSS

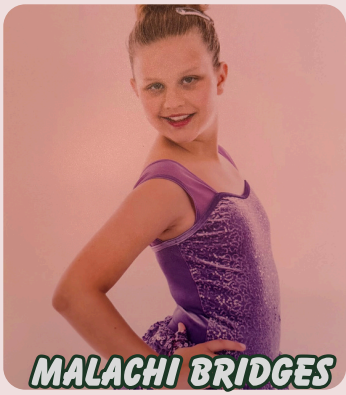

CAROLINE MARTIN


LONDON MALONE


PARKER KARAPANDZIC


BRIONI BOYD


PHOEBE SAID


MALACHI BRIDGES


ELIZABETH GUSIEV


SOPHIE GUSIEV


SOPHIA NGUYEN


WILLOW KINNIARD


RYAN SALYERS


CLAIRE COOPER

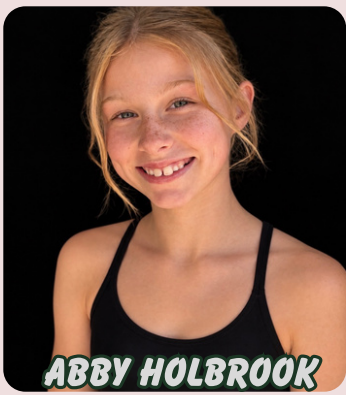

GRACE SHEPHERD


JOSEPHINE JYLKKA


MADELINE ROBINSON


CHYLOH IRELAND


ELAINA PREWITT


ABBY HOLBROOK


CARLI CHEUNG


NORAH GILLIAM


ALAINA CHARLES


ELLA MILES


TEGAN PERO-GAMBLE

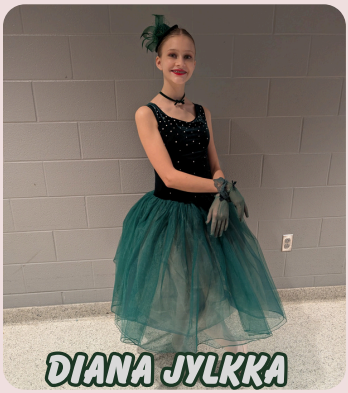

LILIANA JORDAN


ANNA WILLOUGHBY


ALICE BROWNE


NEYA SATHYA


MATTIE JENKINS


DIANA JYLKKA


EVA THOMPSON


ABBY STIVERS


SOPHIA DEZARN


ELLA BUCKLER


GIDEON LOGSDON


KATE BYERLY


LILY MARTIN


AVA PERSINGER


STORI HALL


KATHERINE JENKINS


GABRIELLA MALDONADO


ALLISON BURCH


MADDIE MEANS


NAOMI SEGRE-LEWIS


EMILY VYALKOVA



Autographs



After the show fun!

THE CURTAIN HAS FALLEN AND THE BOWS ARE OVER! ON YOUR WAY HOME, HUDDLE UP WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND FILL OUT THIS OFFICIAL REVIEW OF TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.

1. A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME: _____
2. ADJECTIVE (SPECTACULAR): _____
3. YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER: _____
4. ACTION VERB (PAST TENSE): _____
5. ADJECTIVE (E.G., TOWERING, SPARKLING, COLORFUL): _____
6. ANOTHER ADJECTIVE (E.G., GLOWING, MAGICAL, GOLDEN):_____
7. NOUN (AN OBJECT ON STAGE): _____
8. ADJECTIVE (EXCITING): _____
9. ADJECTIVE (DAZZLING): _____
10. PLURAL NOUN: _____
11. NUMBER: _____
12. LOUD CELEBRATION WORD: "_____!"

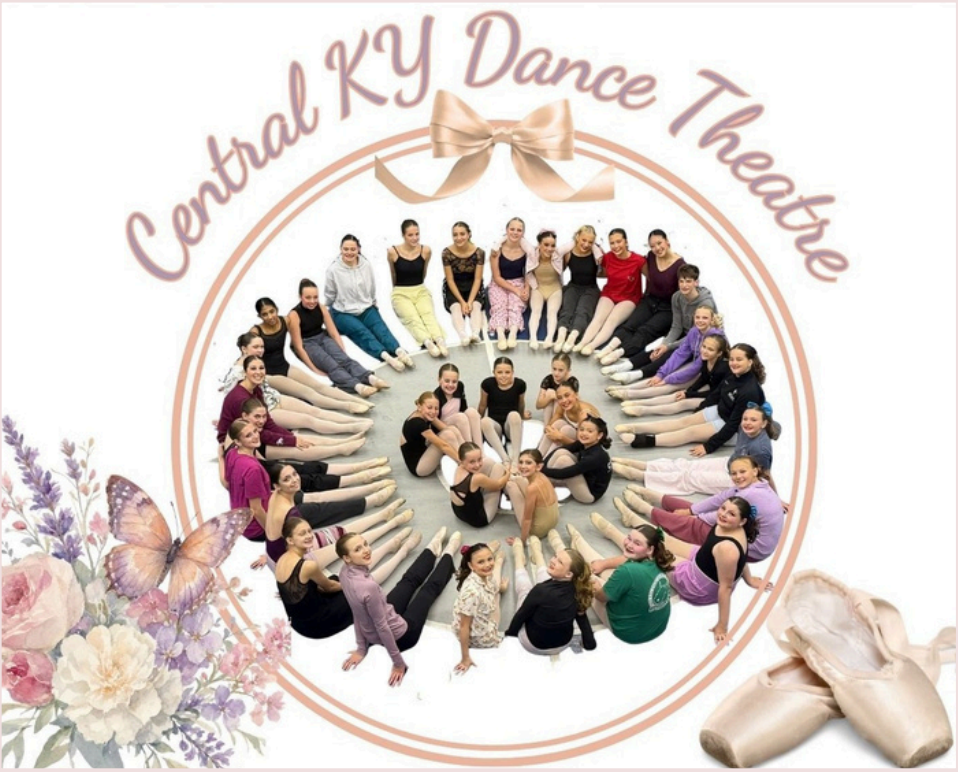
OUR OFFICIAL POST-SHOW REVIEW

TONIGHT, (1. NAME) _____ AND I ATTENDED A TRULY (2. ADJECTIVE) _____ PERFORMANCE! MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE PART OF THE ENTIRE EVENING WAS WATCHING (3. CHARACTER) _____ TAKE THE STAGE. DURING OUR FAVORITE SCENE, THE DANCERS FLAWLESSLY (4. PAST TENSE VERB) _____ ACROSS THE FLOOR, RIGHT PAST A/AN (5. ADJECTIVE) _____, (6. ADJECTIVE) _____ (7. NOUN) _____!

THE INTERMISSION BREAK WAS INCREDIBLY (8. ADJECTIVE) _____, AND THE ENERGY INSIDE THE THEATER WAS COMPLETELY (9. ADJECTIVE) _____. WHEN THE FINAL BOWS HAPPENED, EVERYONE CLAPPED THEIR HANDS LIKE CLAPPING (10. PLURAL NOUN) _____! WE LOVED THE SHOW SO MUCH, WE GIVE IT A PERFECT SCORE OF (11. NUMBER) _____ STARS OUT OF 10! AS WE LEFT THE THEATER DOORS, WE COULDN'T HELP BUT SHOUT, "(12. CELEBRATION WORD) _____!" FOR THE INCREDIBLE CAST AND CREW!



MAKE memories



Thank you for joining us!