

PALISADES NEWS

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# Happy Holidays





# The Nutcracker Returns To Broad Stage in S.M.

Accompanied by the Santa Monica College Symphony playing Tchaikovsky's majestic score, Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's *The Nutcracker* provides a perfect opportunity to introduce children to classical music and dance.

After sold-out performances in 2013 and 2014, this year there will be nine presentations of the beloved classic starting November 28 through December 6.

*The Nutcracker* tells the story of Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker for Christmas before being transported to the Kingdom of Sweets where she is entertained by dancing candies and childhood fantasy characters come-to-life.

Based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and the Marius Petipa classic, this rendition is the complete, traditional ballet, from the Victorian-style party scene to the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy.

Special effects include a growing Christmas tree, a firing cannon and falling snow. The snow scene will feature enhanced choreography in the Snow Queen pas de deux and the corps de ballet sequences.

The artistic direction captures the spirit of the legendary George Balanchine, passed on by Westside Ballet's founder, Yvonne Mounsey, who created the role of Center

Spanish for *The Nutcracker* during the peak of her career as principal dancer with New York City Ballet.

This Westside holiday tradition, which dates back to 1973, is the longest-running *Nutcracker* production in Los Angeles and features young dancers from the affiliated Westside School of Ballet.

Performing alongside professional dancers, the youth roles include party children, mice and soldiers. This production also includes several new young male cast members from the Westside School of Ballet's boys division.

Palisadian Lucia Connolly, who trained with Westside Ballet from the age of 4 to 16, and is now studying on a full scholarship at The School of American Ballet in New York, was selected to rotate in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy with Santa Monica residents Molly Novak and Giorgia Marteloni Zabriskie.

Novak and Zabriskie attend Santa Monica High School. Novak has attended summer intensives at the School of American Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet School and Balettakademien in Stockholm, Sweden. Zabriskie has attended summer programs with the School of American Ballet, the Miami City Ballet and the Boston Ballet.



Isabella Davies as Dewdrop Fairy (left), Erin Power as Lead Mirliton (center) and Karina Wilson as Arabian will dance in *The Nutcracker*.

Photo: Todd Lechtick

"I am continually impressed by our students' commitment to their ballet training—they are exceptional," said Martine Harley, artistic director to Westside Ballet, one of the nation's premier ballet training companies. This pre-professional company was created by Mounsey and Rosemary Valaire (Royal Ballet) in 1970.

The Broad Stage is located at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. Show dates and times: November 28 at 1 and 5 p.m.; November 29 at 11 a.m.; December 3 and 4 at 7 p.m.; and December 5 and 6 at 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at westsideballet.com or call (800) 595-4849.

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## Official Raffle Rules and Prizes

Details: For every \$25.00 you spend at the listed businesses over the 4 day event you will receive a raffle ticket. (Example: a \$110.00 purchase receives 4 raffle tickets.) Patrons of these restaurants and stores have multiple chances to enter. Raffle tickets must be filled out with your name and phone number and left with the business to be deposited in their Raffle Box. The event dates are 11/27-11/30.

Prizes: 1st Prize, a windfall of \$50.00 gift cards from all participating businesses. 2nd Prize, a bounty of \$25.00 gift cards from each business. Bonus Prizes, a \$25.00 card from one of the restaurants or stores will be awarded to 20 individual winners. The drawing for the winners will be held on December 4th at the annual HO HO HO event. Winners do not have to be present to win.

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