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## **5 Performances of *Nutcracker, The Ballet* Set for December 5 - 8** Beloved Holiday Classic in 20th Season

**(Pueblo, Colo. - November 21, 2019)** For many southern Coloradans, the holidays are not complete without enjoying a live performance of the most beautiful ballet of them all, "The Nutcracker". The Sangre de Cristo Ballet is pleased to present its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. This year, the production celebrates its 20th anniversary with performances on Dec 5 at 7:30 pm; Dec 6 at 7:30 pm; Dec 7 at 2 pm; Dec 7 at 7:30 pm, and Dec 8 at 2 pm. Special events surrounding the Thursday performance include photos with Santa Claus and the Sugarplum Fairy prior to the performance and a reception with the cast will follow.

Again this year, costume designer is the award-winning Michelle Gray. Other designers and seamstresses include Dr. Carol Foust, Mia Harberts, and Joslyn Rafferty Cammer. Also included are costumes from previous Nutcracker productions that have been kindly donated by Karen Ritchie, some of which will be on display in the theater lobby. The sets, costumes, and unique choreography of this joyous classic will leave audiences with cherished memories for years to come. Original choreography is by Nanine Wainwright, Nancy Tracey, Brittany Nunes, and Katie Farmer.

The engaging choreography – from the fun of the party scene to the enchanting kingdom of the sweets – is guaranteed to entertain any age. A hallmark of each year's presentation by the Sangre de Cristo Ballet is the appearance of Mother Ginger who is portrayed as a loving maternal figure to the dancing Bon Bon children that emerge from her skirts. This character is annually portrayed in the Arts Center's production by members from the community. Mother Gingers this year are Vanessa Madrid of Top Shelf Realty on Dec 5 at 7:30 pm; Cathy Valenzuela of Tuxedo Ranch on Dec 6 at 7:30 pm; Matt Albright of Center for American Values on Dec 7 at 2 pm; Joslyn Rafferty Cammer of the Sangre de Cristo Dance on Dec 7 at 7:30 pm, and Dr. Timothy Mottet of CSU-Pueblo on Dec 8 at 2 pm. Nanine Wainwright, Artistic Director of Dance, says, "We are thrilled to be producing the 20th anniversary of this beloved holiday tale for Pueblo. It's been heartwarming to hear so many wonderful stories from individuals who have been a part of productions in the past and we hope to continue this tradition for many years to come."

Principal dancers in this year's production include Sara DeHeart as Clara, Connor Foust as the Nutcracker Prince/Cavalier, Matt Eide as Drosselmeyer, Chloe Foust as the Sugarplum Fairy, Nicholas Parker as Mr. Stahlbaum/Snow King, Emma Rafferty as the Snow Queen, Nadia Jackson as the Rat Queen/Dewdrop Fairy.

Tickets are available for \$15 and \$12 for Arts Center members at the Arts Center Box Office or by calling (719) 295-7200. For complete information visit [www.sdc-arts.org](http://www.sdc-arts.org). *Nutcracker, The Ballet* is sponsored by Beverly Beauvais, The Lenore Chamberlain Foundation, Donald & Raelene Moore, Austin Lee-Richerson, Hunter Orthodontics, Adam Schultz Family, and Springbok Health.

Sangre de Cristo Ballet is a youth company comprised of students from the Sangre de Cristo School of Dance who make the commitment to study each form of dance recommended for the company and perform in community outreach projects and stage performances. SDC Ballet members learn professional skills they can apply to succeed in all walks of life. In order to successfully manage their demanding class, rehearsal, and performance schedule, they must learn time-management skills and cultivate exceptional levels of focus, discipline, and emotional intelligence.

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### ***About the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center:***

The cultural hub of Southern Colorado, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center gives visitors the tools to think and act creatively through a three building complex including seven galleries offering the best in historic and contemporary art by artists of local, regional and national renown. The Arts Center offers the Buell Children's Museum, recognized as the second-best for art by Child magazine, a 500-seat theater featuring a variety of performing arts programs, both local and national, and two gift shops. Over 100 fine arts, dance, and leisure classes are available quarterly providing unique offerings to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels. Admission to the Arts Center is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, seniors 65+, and military. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98B, or visit online at [www.sdc-arts.org](http://www.sdc-arts.org).

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