



PRESS RELEASE

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INLAND PACIFIC BALLET BRINGS *THE NUTCRACKER* TO NEW ARCADIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A magical marriage of music and dance has made Inland Pacific Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker* a delightful holiday tradition, bringing all of the elements of the season to life in a beautifully-staged extravaganza with a cast of more than 80 performers.

This year, Inland Pacific Ballet will present two Community Matinee performances of *The Nutcracker* over the Thanksgiving weekend at the new Arcadia Performing Arts Center on Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1. Both performances are at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$25 per person.

A favorite crowd pleaser unique to IPB's production is a thirty-foot long Chinese dragon featured in the Chinese dance. Choreographer and Dragon Master Kin Lam, leader of several traditional Chinese Lion Dance groups in southern California, created the movement for this exciting dance that delights audiences of all ages with its athleticism and fun.

"Arcadia's new venue is a wonderful addition to the community, and all of us at Inland Pacific Ballet are thrilled to be part of their inaugural year," states Artist Director Victoria Koenig. "We wanted to start with our annual production of *The Nutcracker* because it's a wonderful way for families to kick-off their holiday season and be introduced to IPB and the beauty of ballet."

"Coming to a brand new venue is a little risky, but we hope the community will support their new theater. Our "Discover Ballet!" program features a unique introductory narration, a very affordable ticket price of only \$25, and the opportunity to meet IPB's talented dancers for photographs and autographs after the show," says Koenig.

One reviewer has called IPB's seasonal production "a wonderful, crowd-pleasing treat... a top-notch 'Nutcracker' --- imaginative sets, gorgeous costumes, memorable characters, artistic choreography, sophisticated showmanship."

The Nutcracker is a classic holiday story that follows a young girl named Clara who receives a magical nutcracker on Christmas Eve, and sets out on a wondrous journey to the Land of

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the Snow and Kingdom of Sweets. Along the way in her one-horse-open sleigh, dancing dolls and wind-up toy soldiers, a fantastic dream complete with battling mice, dancing snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and the delightful Sugar Plum Fairy.

Set to the stirring score by Peter Tchaikovsky, written more than 100 years ago, Inland Pacific Ballet's *Nutcracker* is the Southland's largest and most lavish production, one that the entire family will count among its most treasured holiday memories.

The Arcadia Performing Arts Center is located at 188 Campus Dr. in Arcadia. Tickets are available through the Center's website at arcadiapaf.org or the box office at 626-821-1781.

Founded in 1994 by Victoria Koenig and Kevin Myers, the Inland Pacific Ballet has become one of Southern California's cultural jewels, producing exquisitely-staged productions of full-length classic story ballets as well as the best in contemporary choreography.

Inland Pacific Ballet is a non-profit organization, with support provided in part by The Ahmanson Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Los Angeles County Arts Commission through the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Target, The Haskell Fund, US Bank Foundation and the Doubletree Hilton in Claremont.

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