



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inland Pacific Ballet Celebrates 19th Season With A Holiday Gala And The Nutcracker Featuring Live Music By The Pomona College Orchestra

This season Inland Pacific Ballet will present ten performances of *The Nutcracker* over three weekends at two spectacular Southland theaters. The Company will be in residence at Bridges Auditorium in Claremont during weekends from December 7-15, and at the Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga from December 20-22. Information and tickets for all performances are available at TheBestNutcracker.com

Danced to Peter Tchaikovsky's stirring and celebrated score, Inland Pacific Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is the Southland's largest and most lavish production with more than 80 dancers on stage. Over the past 19 years it has become a treasured holiday tradition for countless southern California families.

New this year is the addition of live music with the Pomona College Orchestra under the direction of Eric Lindholm. The fifty-piece orchestra will join IPB for the first time and perform during the first weekend of performances only at Bridges Auditorium on December 7 and 8.

"We are thrilled to offer our audience the experience of a live orchestra with *The Nutcracker* this year," states Artistic Director Victoria Koenig. "It is something we have always hoped to be able to do, and this year it just seemed to come together. We're eager to see how the audience responds."

To kick off the season members of IPB's new volunteer guild have organized a Holiday Gala event in conjunction with the Saturday, Dec. 7 evening performance. Guests at the Holiday Gala will enjoy a champagne/wine reception with hors d'oeuvres before the performance, and dessert with the dancers and orchestra following the performance. Tickets are available through the Bridges Auditorium box office for \$65 in addition to the evening performance ticket.

The Nutcracker is a classic holiday story that follows the story of a young girl named Clara who receives a magical nutcracker on Christmas Eve, and sets out on a wondrous journey to the Land of the Snow and Kingdom of Sweets. Along the way Clara encounters a giant growing Christmas tree, battling mice, dancing snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and the delightful Sugar Plum Fairy.

Dancing the role of The Sugar Plum Fairy for the first time is 17-year old Shelby Whallon of Upland. Shelby began her ballet training at age 3 at the Inland Pacific Ballet Academy, and spent four summers attending the School of American Ballet's summer intensive programs in New York.

“Shelby is an exceptionally talented young dancer who is now in her second year as a Company Apprentice,” states Koenig. “She is an example of the amazing talent that exists in the Inland Empire, and we are thrilled to be able to offer dancers like Shelby an opportunity to grow and learn through IPB’s Company Apprentice program.”

Bridges Auditorium is at 450 N. College Way, Claremont, CA. For tickets, call (909) 607-1139. The Lewis Family Playhouse is at 12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. For tickets, call 909-477-2752. For more information and online ticket ordering, visit TheBestNutcracker.com.

Founded in 1994 by Victoria Koenig and Kevin Frank 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 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with support provided in part by The Ahmanson Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, The Los Angeles County Arts Commission through the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, US Bank Foundation, Target, and The Haskell Fund.

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The NEA, along with Target and The Haskell Fund are also supporting four *Young Person’s Guide to the Ballet* educational outreach performances on Dec. 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 10:00 a.m., featuring an abbreviated version of the ballet along with educational activities. Educational outreach performances are offered to public, private and home school students for as low as \$7.00 per person. For outreach information, contact IPB Outreach Coordinator, Lynn Klug at (909) 482-1590 or e-mail lynn@ipballet.org.

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What: Inland Pacific Ballet's: The Nutcracker

Where: Bridges Auditorium, 450 N. College Way Claremont, CA 91711
Tickets: (909) 607-1139
Box Office Hours for Phone/In Person Orders: M-F 10 am – 4 pm

Dates: Saturday, December 7, 2013 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 8, 2013 1:00 pm
Saturday, December 14, 2013 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 15, 2013 1:00 pm

Where: Lewis Family Playhouse, 12505 Cultural Center Drive,
Victoria Gardens, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Tickets: (909) 477-2752
Box Office Hours: M-F 12 pm - 6pm, Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Closed Sunday

Dates: Friday, December 20, 2013 7:00 pm (NEW – just added!)
Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 22, 2013 1:00 pm

All Online Orders: www.TheBestNutcracker.com

Prices: Prices start at \$38 for adults.
Child, Senior and Group discounts available

More information, photos and video: www.TheBestNutcracker.com

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