

PRESS RELEASE

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THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF BALLET PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER AT UPPER DARBY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER THE WEEKEND BEFORE THANKSGIVING

Drexel Hill, PA - The Nutcracker returns to the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center for five performances on November 22, 23, and 24, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Presented by the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet, this production has delighted audiences for over 30 years, offering a magical experience for children and families. The performance features professional guest artists and some of the region's most talented dancers, providing an opportunity for the community to access world-class ballet at affordable prices.

A family-friendly 90-minute production with an intermission, The Nutcracker is recommended for ages four and up. Showtimes are Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Beyond the stage, audiences can explore the winter wonderland-themed lobby, shop for holiday gifts at the Nutcracker boutique, and enjoy special post-show photo opportunities with the cast on Saturday.



Professional guest artist from Philadelphia Ballet Nayara Lopes performs as the Sugar Plum Fairy as Philadelphia Academy of Ballet student Lauren Meyer (Marie) and Philadelphia Ballet guest artist Corey Ogdahl (Nutcracker Prince) look on.

Access to the arts is at the heart of this production. The Upper Darby Performing Arts Center offers free parking and is conveniently located on the Upper Darby High School campus in Drexel Hill, making the performances accessible to families across the region. Tickets are affordably priced between \$11 and \$23 and can be purchased online at <https://udfoundation.org/nutcracker>.

The Nutcracker tells the enchanting story of a young girl who embarks on an adventure far beyond her home, all set to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's beloved score. This

cherished holiday tradition is brought to life by professional guest artists from Philadelphia Ballet, alongside students from the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet and the School of Philadelphia Ballet.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet, based in Narberth, is one of the only institutions in the Philadelphia area dedicated solely to classical ballet training. Through its nonprofit arm, the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet Society, the Academy is committed to making professional-quality ballet accessible to all. "We believe that ballet is for everyone," said Melinda Pendleton, director and second-generation owner of the Academy. "Our goal is to inspire young people and families by making sure that anyone, regardless of their background, can experience the magic of ballet."

In partnership with the Upper Darby School District, the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet Society is extending its mission of arts access by offering a livestream preview of The Nutcracker to every elementary school in the district, ensuring that students can enjoy this classic performance from their classrooms.

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The Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet is celebrating over 50 years of training students in the art of ballet with the very best dance training available. Established in 1974 by founders Margarita deSaá and John White, the Academy is a place where thousands of students of all ages have experienced the challenges and joys of discovering the art of classical ballet.