



THE NUTCRACKER

A MAGICAL TALE IN MOUNT VERNON

December 9 - December 18



bsfa.org

FEATURING
Dancers from
The Baltimore School for the Arts
and TWIGS



Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography by Amy Hall Garner
Lighting Design by Bernard Johnson

Production and Costume design
by Norah Worthington
Projection Design by Emilia Cieslak

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TO WORK IN GAINING SKILLS



CAST

ACT I, SCENE I: Overture (The Blake Family)

Grace

Ka'Niya Carr (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/18@5pm)

Samara Gosnell (12/11@1pm, 12/18@1pm)

Chloe Ruffin (12/10, 12/16, 12/17)

Alex

Darius Corbett (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Jayden Roundtree (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Mother

Emily Socolinsky

Father

Thomas Ventimiglia

Aunt Dee

Patricia Hengen-Shields (12/9, 12/10, 12/11@5pm, 12/16, 12/17, 12/18@1pm)

Quincy Dow (12/11@1pm, 12/18@5pm)

ACT I, SCENE II: Midnight Magic and Battle

Nutcracker Prince

Pyotr Sergeevykh (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Edward Lee, III (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Rat King

Kal'el Presley (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Keon Wagstaff (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Big Mice

Kendahl Foster, Makayla Perry, Taylor Peterson, Kamryn Whittington
(12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Isabella Manalansan, Makayla Perry, Briana Poston, Chase Robinson
(12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Little Mice*

Tamiara Burns, Nadia Green-Noel, Stoneya Knox-Mason, Autumn Paige,
Mariana Phipps, Maya Siu, Orla Shiller-Starger

Lieutenants

Kayla Booker, Mackenzie Miller (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Chloe Freeman, Ariyanna Wyatt (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Soldiers*

Bridget Dugan, Ava Jones, Maeve Maxwell, Sage McDaniel, Reagan Rhoad,
Molli Morrison, Carissa Walls, Valerie Winter

ACT I, SCENE III: Snow Scene

Snow Princess

Nya Cunningham (12/9, 12/10, 12/18)

Cassidy Reigel (12/11, 12/16, 12/17)

Snow Demis

Isabella Poteat, Aimee Smith (12/9, 12/18@5pm)

Brianna Brickerd, Makayla Williams (12/10, 12/16)

Aimee Smith, Makayla Williams (12/11@1pm, 12/18@1pm)

Brianna Brickerd, Isabella Poteat (12/11@5pm, 12/17)

Snow Corps

Jayla Anderson, Aajah Ball, Sophia Blucker, Ka'Niya Carr, Anthonette Carter,
London Connolly, Simone Connor, Laila Demry, Katherine Hubbard, Senaya Hueston,
Iyona Kane, Isabella Poteat, Atiya Prettyman, Carissa Robinson, Joy Sharp, Laila Sterrett

ACT II, SCENE I: Magical Mount Vernon

Sunrise Mist

Anthonette Carter, Laila Demry, Atiya Prettyman, Dakota Purnell, Maliyah Willis
(12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17)

Samantha Ankrom-Chickering, Deonté Brown, Laila Demry, Thai'Lyund Parks,
Taylor Peterson (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Anthonette Carter, Laila Demry, Thai'Lyund Parks, Atiya Prettyman (12/18@5pm)

Emcee

Isabella Manalansan (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Darius Corbett (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Fanfare

Christopher Church, Jr., Valentina Flores-Briggs, Laila Sterrett
(12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Jayden Roundtree, Sydney Tignor, Kamryn Whittington
(12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Shimmer

Chaniya Braxton, Alessandra Brown (12/9, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Annalise Berger, Olivia Respass (12/10, 12/16, 12/18@1pm)

Annalise Berger, Alessandra Brown (12/11@1pm)

Chaniya Braxton, Olivia Respass (12/11@5pm)

Spirits

Decora Fowlkes, Iyona Kane, Jayden Roundtree
(12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

Taja Hood, Kal'el Presley, Maliyah Willis (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16)

Taja Hood, Kal'el Presley, Iyona Kane (12/18@1pm)

Fireworks

Aajah Ball, Darius Corbett, Edward Lee, III, Makayla Williams
(12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/18@5pm)

Simone Connor, Karehma Miller, Joy Sharp, Keon Wagstaff (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16)

Aajah Ball, Darius Corbett, Edward Lee, III, Karehma Miller (12/17)

Simone Connor, Joy Sharp, Keon Wagstaff, Makayla Williams (12/18@1pm)

Naiads

Eve Baldwin, Annalise Berger, Arabella Brown, Gianna Kepner, Angel Pearson,
Madison Wesson (12/9, 12/18@5pm)

Samara Gosnell, Katherine Heether, Iyona Kane, Sakura Pavao, Cecilia Rybczynski,
Lillie Snead-Dorsey (12/10, 12/16)

Arabella Brown, Iyona Kane, Sakura Pavao, Angel Pearson, Cecilia Rybczynski,
Lillie Snead-Dorsey (12/11@1pm)

Eve Baldwin, Annalise Berger, Samara Gosnell, Katherine Heether, Gianna Kepner,
Madison Wesson (12/11@5pm)

Eve Baldwin, Annalise Berger, Arabella Brown, Samara Gosnell, Gianna Kepner,
Madison Wesson (12/17)

Katherine Heether, Sakura Pavao, Angel Pearson, Cecilia Rybczynski,
Lillie Snead-Dorsey, Madison Wesson (12/18@1pm)

Candy Canes*

Eve Craven, Zoe Franze, Yaminah Jefferson, Niobe Paisley, Anina Powell,
Parker Schellenbach, Cannyn Shelton

Waltz of the Flowers

Red Rose

Cassidy Reigel (12/9, 12/10, 12/18@5pm)

Jaylah Symonette (12/11@1pm, 12/16, 12/17)

Alessandra Brown (12/11@5pm, 12/18@1pm)

Anemones

Rain Craven, Jaylah Symonette (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/18@5pm)

Sophia Blucker, Kyleigh Johnson (12/10, 12/11@1pm, 12/16)

Rain Craven, Kyleigh Johnson (12/17)

Sophia Blucker, Jaylah Symonette (12/18@1pm)

Hydrangea

Chaniya Braxton, Brianna Brickerd, Arabella Brown, Nya Cunningham,
Katherine Hubbard, Gianna Kepner, Seraphine Paisley, Isabella Poteat, Cassidy Reigel,
Olivia Respass, Carissa Robinson, Chloe Ruffin, Makayla Williams

Lemon Sticks*

Olivia Bossis-Galvan, Erin Chism, Victory Green-Noel, Demi Myers, Natalia Taylor,
Anslee McKenzie Walters

Grand Pas de Deux

Sugar Plum Fairy

Kyleigh Johnson (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/18@5pm)

Aimee Smith (12/10, 12/16, 12/17)

Brianna Brickerd (12/11@1pm, 12/18@1pm)

Cavalier

Keon Wagstaff (12/9, 12/11@5pm, 12/17, 12/18@5pm)

OUR DANCE DEPARTMENT

Laura Halm Hamilton '99, Dance Department Head

Leah Allen, Dance Program Manager

BSA DANCE FACULTY

Samantha Christiansen '91
Debra Robinson Deckelbaum
Quincy Dow '14
Amanda Fair '00
Iris Andersen Grizzell '96
Dmitri Malikov
Amber Merrick '05
Asia Mitchell '15
Da'Shawn Rawl '14
Anton Wilson
Lan Zheng

ACCOMPANISTS

Alina Antonenko
Lawrence Bowie
Sherry Du
Rob Reid
Eduard Rotman
Erik Spangler
Mark Williams
Susan Wincek

OUR PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Designer:
Norah Worthington

Production Manager:
Julianne Franz

Technical Director: Natasha Tylea

Production Stage Manager:
Dante Fields

Stage Manager: Maithili Sule

Assistant Stage Managers:
Emmett Hartlove, Tucker Mossing

COSTUMES:
Resident Costume Designer:
Norah Worthington

Stitcher: Barbara Blackwood

Nutcracker Mask: Svi Roussanoff

Mouse masks designed by Larry
Wood of Fantasy Guild Studios

LIGHTING:
Lighting Designer: Bernard Johnson

Master Electrician and Board
Operator: Samuel Greco

Followspot Operator: Luna Saindon

SCENIC:
Scenic Advisors: James Weisheit,
Maya Wilderberry

Crew Chief: Amelia Voos

Sound Engineer:
Rachel Schmid-James

Projectionist: Daniel Frick

Running Crew: Jamia Carter,
Silvana Gerardo, Amelia Henry,
Tracey Molina

Fly: Vivien Smith

Wardrobe Supervisor:
Nico Liberto

Wardrobe: Ella Cheatham,
Samantha Swimmer, Ella Voos

Costume Construction & Alteration:
Barbara Blackwood

OUR CHOREOGRAPHER

Amy Hall Garner is a native of Huntsville, Alabama, and a graduate of The Juilliard School. Her work has been praised internationally and commissioned by Ailey II, ABT Studio Company, Collage Dance Collective, The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Barnard College, The University of the Arts, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Point Park University, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Recently, she has received virtual commissions from BalletX, Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Guggenheim Museum's Works & Process Digital Series, ABT Studio Company, Boulder Ballet and a virtual collaboration between Miami City Ballet and Paul Taylor American Modern Dance. She personally coached Grammy Award winner Beyoncé, providing additional choreography for The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour. Theatrical choreography credits include: The Color Purple (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and Invisible Thread, associate choreographer (Second Stage Theater, NYC). In 2018, she was selected to participate in Alvin Ailey's New Directions Choreography Lab supported by the Ford Foundation. Garner was one of the first recipients of the Joffrey Ballet's Choreography of Color Award (now titled Winning Works). She is an adjunct professor at New York University's New Studio on Broadway at Tisch School of the Arts. Recently, Ms. Garner was a Virginia B. Toulmin Fellow at The Center for Ballet and the Arts.

A Note from Laura Halm Hamilton '99, Dance Department Head and Choreographer Amy Hall Garner:

Dearest Community Members,

The Baltimore School for the Arts is a unique educational institution, an environment that encourages the pushing of boundaries, so keeping with the same traditional approach to The Nutcracker simply never made sense to me. Back in January 2019, I began my search for a choreographer who wanted to progress towards a new interpretation, approaching the story from a more contemporary perspective and through a more inclusive lens. I reached out to numerous colleagues and time and time again, the name "Amy Hall Garner" surfaced. In our first conversation, we spent an hour geeking out over what to do with the Snow Scene. I knew I had found the ideal collaborator and asked her to take this big leap with me.

Almost 22 months later, with last year's premier postponed by the pandemic, we are finally able to bring this production to life. In cultivating this new creation, we prioritized three things:

1. Inclusion of every student, regardless of technical level and experience
2. Inclusion of techniques other than classical ballet to both challenge and celebrate the students' unique strengths
3. De-center the traditional narrative from one that has historically depicted offensive racial and ethnic stereotypes to that of a magical reimagining of the neighborhood in which Baltimore School for the Arts is situated

We wanted to create something relevant for our community, especially as we begin to emerge from these collectively challenging times, reminding us all that beauty and magic does still exist in the here and now. Production and Costume Designer Norah Worthington, whose insight and research into Baltimore's past and present guided our journey, provided invaluable contributions to this process, bringing us to where we are now. In this production, you will see various Mt. Vernon treasures come to life in magical ways: the fireworks from the annual holiday monument lighting ceremony, the Ba Bird from the Egyptian collection at the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore sculptor Grace Turnbull's "The Naiad" fountain, and the Flower Mart (complete with Lemon Sticks!), to mention just a few.

We wish to offer our sincerest gratitude to:

BSA Dance faculty and staff members Quincy Dow, Samantha Christiansen, Anton Wilson, Debra Robinson Deckelbaum, and Leah Allen; Julianne Franz, crew supervisors and mentors, and the Stage Design and Production students for working behind the scenes to make this production run smoothly; Norah Worthington for guiding and supporting us every step of the way; and Executive Director Rosiland Cauthen for supporting this ambitious new creation in the midst of a lingering pandemic.

Finally, we must thank the courageous dancers in both the high school and our TWIGS program. I know this has been a new challenge for you, but you never know what you can accomplish until you take the risk and try. Now, let the magic begin!

—Laura Halm Hamilton '99 and Amy Hall Garner

Special Thanks

To all of the generous donors who support BSA and TWIGS and help to make these programs possible for Baltimore City kids.

**Happy Holidays from all of us
at the Baltimore School for the Arts**

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