



For Immediate Release

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**Boca Ballet Theatre Starts off the Season with Sparkle, Spice, and Mice:
An Enchanting Take on the Holiday Classic - *The Nutcracker***

Boca Raton, FL – Featuring renowned guest artists from across the nation, sensational sets and exquisite costumes, Boca Ballet Theatre charmed with their unique version of *The Nutcracker* at Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater. The audience was visibly captivated by Co-Artistic Director Dan Guin’s enchanting choreography, as evidenced by their chorus of “oohs” and “ahhs” throughout the performances. Set to music by Tchaikovsky, more than 100 dancers dazzled in this authentic take on the holiday classic.

Boca Ballet Theatre was pleased to present American Ballet Theatre’s Gray Davis and Cassandra Trenary among the incredible guest stars in this production. Making her debut performance with Boca Ballet Theatre, Trenary sparkled as the Sugar Plum Fairy, poised and picture-perfect as she soared across the stage. Davis danced the role of Cavalier with elegance and grace, equally divine to his portrayal of Franz in BBT’s *Coppelia* this past summer.

Several star artists returned to BBT’s stage for this year’s production of *The Nutcracker* and were welcomed back with wide arms: Mauricio Cañete, Shannon Smith, Alexey Kulpin and Jose Edwin Gonzalez enhanced the show with their extraordinary performances as the *Nutcracker* Prince (Cañete), the Spanish dance (Smith), the Soldier Doll and remarkable Russian lead (Kulpin), and the Arabian dance (Gonzalez). The men stole the show with their flawless flips and triumphant jumps, earning deafening cheers and applause from the house.

From the poised pas de deux to the special pyrotechnics that were custom designed for the production, *The Nutcracker* appealed to adults and children alike. In fact, the kids were so entranced by the effects that they clapped and squealed in sheer amusement. This was especially evident during the performance which boasted several hundred students from elementary schools in the Boca Raton area. Each year, Boca Ballet Theatre invites second grade classes from local schools to attend *The Nutcracker* as a field trip. This goes hand in hand with Boca Ballet Theatre’s outreach programs, designed to expose, inspire, and educate children from local housing authority communities to the world of dance.



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Many who attended *The Nutcracker* also enjoyed the post-matinee "Gingerbread Ball" festivities. Children were invited onstage after the show to meet Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, and the other magical characters. With twinkling eyes and big smiles, they were thrilled to interact and take photographs with all the beautiful dancers - and on the very same stage that they just performed on. Surrounded by sweet treats and sparkling costumes, the children seemed in awe to experience the stage, the set, and the stars up close.

The Nutcracker was generously presented by Marleen and Harold Forkas* (*in loving memory), who graciously continue to keep the legacy of dance alive.

About Boca Ballet Theatre:

Established in 1990, BBT is a nonprofit, award-winning civic ballet company that trains dance students, entertains audiences, and inspires the community through successful outreach programs. Under the guidance of Co-Artistic Directors Dan Guin and Jane Tyree, the mission is to enrich the cultural landscape of our community and educate its youth in classical ballet and concert dance through focused training, interaction with professional dancers and participation in full-length ballets and contemporary choreography. For more information please visit www.bocaballet.org or call 561-995-0709.