

**BOCA BALLET THEATRE CELEBRATES AMAZING PERFORMANCE OF
THE NUTCRACKER AT J ALEXANDERS**

Boca Raton – On Saturday, November 26, 2016 Boca Ballet Theatre celebrated the successful performances of *The Nutcracker*, as patrons, volunteers and the amazing dancers all gathered for the Après at J.Alexander's in Boca Raton. Restaurant staff, under the supervision of Alex Vaughn and Katherine Deusch, supplied smoked fish dip, salad, pasta and sliders for the guests to enjoy as they mingled with the dancers and enjoyed refreshing cocktails from the J Alexander bar.

The Nutcracker, presented by Marleen Forkas in loving memory of Harold Forkas, reached an important milestone this year. It was 20 years ago that Marleen and Harold donated the initial funds that purchased all of the gorgeous back drops and costumes. Since then Marleen has committed to support the production as presenter every year. Boca Ballet Theatre is so grateful to have her as the Grand Dame of *The Nutcracker!*

Cassandra Trenary and Gray Davis from American Ballet Theatre, Carlos Ignacio and Galindez Macias formerly from National Ballet of Cuba, Toby Lewellen from Ballet Arkansas and Andrew Harper, a Freelance Dancer & Choreographer were joined by a cast of more than 100 dancers, who captivated the audience with unique choreography by Co-Artistic Director Dan Guin, paired with the iconic music by Tchaikovsky. The production was further enhanced by the return of pyrotechnics which thrilled the audience and added a little more magic to the performances.

A record number of families brought their children to the post-matinee "Gingerbread Ball", where they have the opportunity to meet all the dancers, get autographs and have their photo taken with them. The children, who are able to eat some of the treats from the "land of sweets", were in awe to experience the stage, the sets, and the dancers up close.

The level of excitement was equally visible at the "Student Matinee", presented in loving memory of Lon D. & Lucille Barton and their son, Lon William Barton. Each year, Boca Ballet Theatre holds this special show as a field trip for elementary schools in the Boca Raton area. Hundreds of second grade students are invited to experience this introduction to the world of dance.

Photo attached:

Photo 1: Chad Kenney and Marleen Forkas (photo credit: K Biscuiti)

Photo 2: Milton and Edith Stein with Dan Guin (photo credit: K Biscuiti)

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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.