

NUTCRACKER

The air may be warm and sunny but, believe it or not, it is time to start casting and yes, rehearsing for the BIG SHOW!

Miss Courtney is in Washington, DC to cast the children's roles for Ballet West's tour of The Nutcracker to the Kennedy Center, which will take place this November!

While she is away, we will hold a Nutcracker workshop to help prepare dancers for the audition. This is a great way to get the nerves out! You can attend a workshop on September 9th at our Utah County Campus from 2:00-3:00pm or at Ballet Centre in Salt Lake City from 5:00 to 6:30pm. There are still spots available. This workshop is for dancers age 8-20.

[Register here for Utah County.](#)

[Register here for Salt Lake.](#)

The Auditions will be held on September 16th at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre. The wonderful thing about The Nutcracker is that dancers from 8-20 throughout the community are invited to participate! There are specific height requirements. We encourage you to go to the Ballet West website to register and find out more. [Here!](#)

Dancing in The Nutcracker with Ballet West is unlike anything else! Watching the professional dancers up close and being a part of the production will stay with a young dancer forever. It is a BIG commitment, but so worth it!



OFF TO A GREAT START

We can already tell that this is going to be a year to remember at Ballet West Academy! Here are just a few of the highlights so far. We have 4 campus locations of Ballet West Academy, which have welcomed students from around the country - and world - who are all excited to dance for our 2023-2024 season. Our Professional Training Division, and Trainee Division have grown, and in all our ages combined we have welcomed more boys this year than ever before, and more than anywhere else in the region!

This is our inaugural year of Ballet West Academy Student Housing and we are so excited! We celebrated with a pot luck and the kids really stepped up! There were prizes for the best dishes which included a Shepherd's Pie, Chili, and Cobbler. Their cooking skills are impressive. Welcome to Amanda Kindt, our live-in Resident Advisor for student housing, and Hannah Lowell who is supporting her in addition to her role as Park City Administrator. (Pot Luck photo below.)

Auditions were held for "Current" - our contemporary performing group - which is open to dancers from all campuses, in levels 7 to PT.D. They perform in the contemporary showcase and other special events around the valley. Almost 50 students attended the audition and 16 were chosen. The decision was difficult, with so many talented dancers to choose from. Current will work with 3 professional choreographers to learn new repertoire, including opportunities to work with former Ballet West Artist Joshua Whitehead, and a student choreographer who was chosen from the student choreographic workshop last spring. Current, under the direction of Jessica Baynes and Eunice Stafford, is excited to explore a new partnership with Salt Contemporary Company this season.

We have recently licensed *Second Before the Ground* by Trey McIntyre. This work is being staged by Trainee Coordinator James Payne and our Trainees are working hard learning the ballet. A selection will be performed on September 16th at the Dance for Life Suicide Awareness Gala held at the Capitol Theatre. (Rehearsal photo below.)



ADULT BALLET

The Adult Ballet Program at Ballet West Academy is booming! We are so excited to welcome adult dancers of all levels across 4 campus locations. We offer classes 7 days a week, and have even included a few tap classes! One exciting program that we are continuing to offer is our Adult Starter Series package. This 5-week class is for the true beginner and will help take them from their first tendu to an open beginner class! We average 700 attendees per month at our adult classes combined! One enthusiastic adult dancer shared this, "I love Ballet West. I can't believe how seriously you take us adult ballet dancers, and how honored and respected you make us all feel. Every single ballet company ever, should follow your amazing example. Thank you for making a place for us. The passion is there even though (in some cases) the body might not be. Thank you for helping us honor our inner Prima Ballerina."

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **Nutcracker Workshop September 9th** - UCC 2:00-3:00pm, BC 5:00-6:30pm, Cost: \$12
- **Nutcracker Auditions September 16th**. Held at the JEQBC.