

Colorado Conservatory of Dance presents

A Sensory-Friendly Nutcracker

with international guest stars Adiarys Almeida and Taras Domitro

People with sensory, social and learning disabilities can fully participate
in a cherished holiday tradition with their families.

Denver - December 15 at 6:30pm, Colorado Conservatory of Dance (CCD) presents a special version of the traditional, family-friendly holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, for people with sensory needs.

Colorado Conservatory of Dance is in its seventh year of offering *Ballet Expressions* – a program which uses dance to build critical developmental skills and physical strength and flexibility for children with special needs ranging from Cerebral Palsy to Down Syndrome. Building on their expertise with this core program, CCD has developed a theatre experience for people with special needs.

CCD's production of *The Nutcracker* boasts gorgeous sets and costumes, stunning choreography, and professional guest artists from around the world. For this rare opportunity, however, CCD will alter the normal house rules, fostering the opportunity for families with a special needs family member to feel welcomed in a theatre setting. The performance will feel and look the same as our performances which are open to the general public, but will allow for reactions that would normally be seen as distracting in a typical theatre experience.

- Sound levels are adjusted to a moderate, consistent level to avoid unpredictable loud sounds.
- House lights will be left up to avoid total darkness.
- Guests of Honor are encouraged to bring manipulatives into the theatre.
- Guests of Honor may react to the story on the stage in the way that feels right to them. They may stand up, walk around, take breaks, etc. as needed.
- Seating is limited to no more than half the house (300 seats) to ensure each audience member has adequate room.

Audience members also have the opportunity to meet the Nutcracker Prince, Clara, and many other characters from the ballet after the show for autographs and photos to complete the magical experience.

CCD's 2017 typical performances of *The Nutcracker* runs December 9, 10, 16, and 17. This year, CCD will welcome international guest stars Melissa Gelfin*, Cervilio Miguel Amador*, Adiarys Almeida** and Taras Domitro** to dance the leading roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

* December 9 & 10
** December 15, 16 & 17

AT A GLANCE

- WHAT:** *Sensory Friendly Performance of The Nutcracker*
- WHO:** Colorado Conservatory of Dance
- WHEN:** December 15, 2017 at 6:30pm
- LOCATION:** Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School
1001 W. 84th Ave, Denver, CO 80260 (West of I-25, at 84th Ave. and Huron St.)
- COST:** Special Sensory-Friendly performance: \$10 | Guest of Honor FREE

Order tickets and learn more: 303-466-5685

For exclusive photo and interview opportunities with the CEO & Artistic Director or students, or to find out more, email or call Rachel Long, CCD Communications Coordinator at rlong@ccdance.org or 303-466-5685.

WHO WE ARE:

Colorado Conservatory of Dance (formerly the School of Ballet Nouveau Colorado) is the state's premiere pre-professional and educational dance training center. Founded in 1992, CCD has grown to include youth programs, a robust adult program, extensive outreach programs throughout the Denver-Boulder metro area, and mutually supportive relationships with local professional dance companies. In 2001 the school created the critically acclaimed Ballet Nouveau Colorado professional company, which in 2013 became the independent dance company Wonderbound. Under the direction of Julia Wilkinson Manley since 2002, CCD has received repeated local and national accolades for the exceptional quality of its programs.

CCD commits itself to offering an extraordinary quality of dance education. With a thriving school and 14,000+ community education participants per year, the organization is a powerful force for expanding the reach of high quality dance education in the Front Range community. The school holds an impeccable reputation for its nurturing and professional environment for students from pre-school through adult. Its teaching syllabus combines methodical rigor, diverse techniques, and a focus in health and wellness, and many of its students go on to outstanding professional careers in dance.

CCD offers exciting and enriching experiences for people of any age, ability, experience level, aspiration, or socio-economic status. The school serves not only youth and aspiring professionals, but also offers recreational classes for children and adults, an Adaptive Dance program for students of all physical and cognitive ability levels, health counseling and Pilates at its Wellness Center, and much more. CCD's scholarship program ensures that anyone with the desire to dance can come and study with us.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Colorado Conservatory of Dance provides the highest quality dance education in both classical and contemporary styles. Colorado Conservatory of Dance uses dance to foster community, create positive influence, and inspire the individual.

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