

Colorado Conservatory of Dance presents

The Nutcracker

with international guest stars Melissa Gelfin*, Cervilio Miguel Amador*,

Adiarys Almeida and Taras Domitro****

All children are invited onstage after the show to learn a dance from the ballet and meet the characters!

Denver – December 9, 10, 16 & 17, Colorado Conservatory of Dance (CCD) presents a full-length production of the family-favorite ballet *The Nutcracker*.

CCD boasts gorgeous sets and costumes, stunning choreography, professional guest artists from around the world, and ample FREE parking. CCD's family friendly performance of *The Nutcracker* is Denver's only production that invites all children from the audience onstage after the show to learn choreography from the holiday classic. Audience members also have the opportunity to meet the Nutcracker Prince, Clara, and many other characters from the ballet for autographs and photos to complete the magical experience.

CCD's 2017 production of *The Nutcracker* runs December 9, 10, 16 & 17. This year, CCD will welcome international guest stars Melissa Gelfin* (Solosist, Cinicnati Ballet), Cervilio Miguel Amador* (Principal, Cincinnati Ballet), Adiarys Almeida** (International Guest Artist) and Taras Domitro** (former Principal, San Francisco Ballet) to dance the leading roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

CCD believes dance should be an enriching and fulfilling experience that is accessible to all. To help fulfill this commitment, each year CCD gives nearly \$90,000 in need and merit based scholarships to students. This 25th anniversary season, 12 scholarship students will participate in *The Nutcracker*, many of them dancing major roles. 13-year-old CCD scholarship student Leilani Montoya has been a recipient of CCD's coveted "Move to Learn" partnership scholarship since she was six years old. Montoya says, "I'm so excited for this year's Nutcracker because it is my first time performing Nutcracker roles on pointe or with a partner. I can't wait to dance with my friends and share this wonderful production!" She hopes to become a professional dancer some day.

CCD's students are extremely dedicated and rehearse *The Nutcracker* choreography for almost 150 hours before taking it to the stage. The result is a well-crafted, beautifully-executed production which audiences thoroughly enjoy. One audience member said of the production, "Incredible dancers – very high level of professionalism," while another audience member said, "I never clapped so hard or so much. Really impressive performance!"

IN ADDITION: CCD will host a special Sensory-Friendly performance on Friday, December 15th at 6:30pm. This will allow families who have a "guest of honor" who has a hard time sitting through a conventional performance to feel comfortable having a family experience at the ballet. House lights will be turned up to make the environment not-so-scary, and participants will feel free to react to the story on the stage in any way they need!

* December 9 & 10
** December 16 & 17

AT A GLANCE

- WHAT:** *The Nutcracker* – with international guest stars Melissa Gelfin*, Cervilio Miguel Amador*, Adiarys Almeida** and Taras Domitro**
- WHO:** Colorado Conservatory of Dance
- WHEN:** December 9th (1:00pm & 6:30pm), 10th (1:00pm), 16th (1:00pm & 6:30pm), & 17th (1:00pm)
Special Sensory-Friendly performance: Friday, December 15th (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:** Regular Ticket Prices: \$42 Prime | \$32 Standard | \$24 Value
Child/Senior Ticket Prices: \$37 Prime | \$29 Standard | \$22 Value
Special Sensory-Friendly performance: \$10 | Guest of Honor FREE
- Order tickets:** <http://www.Nutcracker2016.com> | 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 Communication Coordinator at rlong@ccdance.org or 303-466-5685.

ABOUT CCD:

Inside the doors of this longstanding, flagship cultural organization is a deeply caring and nurturing community of exceptional and knowledgeable dance teachers, learned body scientists and therapists, and a diverse collection of students – all committed to a process of learning and teaching ballet that is healthy for both the body and the mind.

Our faculty is comprised of dance experts who have extensive professional experience and/or advanced degrees in dance performance and pedagogy. For a full list of our current faculty and guest teachers, visit our website: ccdance.org.

Mission:

We believe in a better life through dance.

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.

Vision:

The Colorado Conservatory of Dance will be a responsible and stable national model of excellence in dance education, healthy & wellness, and non-profit management.

Values:

With direction, purpose, and intent, the Colorado Conservatory of Dance creates a healthy and generous environment where students, parents and community members are nurtured and encouraged to develop their most creative and fulfilled selves. We responsibly pursue our mission with high standards and high expectation. We value mentorship and partnership, and we believe that dance should be available and accessible to all.

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