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**COLORADO CONSERVATORY OF DANCE RETURNS TO THE STAGE WITH A TIMELESS FAMILY CLASSIC "THE NUTCRACKER"**

*This professional production features internationally renowned guest stars, affordable tickets  
in a Covid safe environment*

**(DENVER, CO, October 18)** Colorado Conservatory of Dance (CCD) returns to the stage for its first in-person performance since February 2020. CCD will present a full-length production of Denver Metro's family favorite ballet, Sill-TerHar Motors Presents, Colorado Conservatory of Dance, *The Nutcracker*, December 10, 11, 12, 18, and 19 at the Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School, 1001 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver. With ticket prices beginning at \$20 and a maximum premium seating price of only \$49, the CCD production offers an ideal balance of professional quality and affordability for families wishing to share this one-of-a-kind experience together.

Although we are eager to once again perform in front of a live audience, in order to protect the health of our patrons and dancers, we have implemented Covid-19 safety protocols for our 2021-2022 performance season. Please visit our [website](#) for more detailed information.

The CCD production, presented yearly since 1993, boasts gorgeous sets and costumes, stunning choreography, and professional guest artists from around the country. Following each performance, CCD is the only one in the Denver metro area that allows children to learn choreography from the ballet, while in their seats. This year, audience members will also have the opportunity to take socially-distanced photos with the Nutcracker Prince, Clara, and other characters from the ballet to complete the magical experience.

The 2021 production features international guest stars Beckanne Sisk and Chase O'Connell, both Principal dancers with Ballet West, who will perform the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier on December 10, 11, and 12; these leading roles will be danced by Sharon Wehner, former Principal at Colorado Ballet and Gavin Hounslow of Boulder Ballet on December 18 and 19.

CCD's mission statement, "we unleash individual potential and invigorate community through dance," manifests itself through its production of *The Nutcracker*, as it features over 50 student cast members. Some of these students are attending the conservatory on either merit-based, financial based, or crisis relief scholarships. In fact, CCD provides nearly \$90,000 of tuition assistance per year as part of its belief that dance should be an enriching and fulfilling experience that is accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ability, aspiration, or socio-economic status. These students have rehearsed for over 150 hours before it hits the Pinnacle stage, the result is a visually stunning, beautifully executed production which delights audiences of all ages. One audience member said of the 2019 production, "*Even after 16 years of watching CCD's Nutcracker, it never ceases to amaze me. Every year is more sensational than the last with all the pieces we know and love, but each year they continue to innovate and make it more delightful and beloved than the last. Already looking forward to next year's show!*" While another attendee remarked "*It would not be the Christmas season without CCD's festive production of The Nutcracker. The production is so beautiful and the dancers so accomplished that it is as wonderful as any professional show. It is a joy to experience each and every year!*"

In addition to the performances listed above, CCD is especially proud for the sixth year to offer its signature "Sensory-Friendly" performance of the ballet on December 20 at 6:30 PM. Building on its expertise from its groundbreaking *Dance Expressions* program, which uses dance to build critical developmental skills and physical strength & flexibility for children with challenges ranging from cerebral palsy to Down syndrome, CCD was the first in the state of Colorado to create this theatre-going experience for people with special needs. For the sensory-friendly performance, the conservatory alters the "typical" house rules, fostering the opportunity for audiences with special needs family members to feel welcomed in a theatre setting. The performance looks and feels identical to others on the calendar offered to the general public, but allows for authentic reactions among its audience members that may otherwise be seen as distracting in a typical theatre setting. Specifically, sound levels are adjusted to a moderate, consistent level to avoid surprises or distractions; house lights are left up to prevent total darkness; special needs "Guests of Honor" are encouraged to bring manipulatives into the theatre and may react to the story on stage in ways that feel correct to them (including standing, walking around, taking breaks, etc.); and seating is limited to no more than half the house to ensure each audience member has adequate space around them.

## AT A GLANCE

**WHAT:** *The Nutcracker* with international guest stars Beckanne Sisk and Chase O'Connell from Ballet West on December 10, 11, and 12, and Sharon Wehner former Principal Dancer at Colorado Ballet, and Gavin Hounslow from Boulder Ballet on December 18 and 19.

**WHO:** Colorado Conservatory of Dance

**WHEN:** December 10 (6:30pm)  
December 11 (1:00pm and 6:30pm)  
December 12 (1:00pm)  
December 18 (1:00 and 6:30pm)  
December 19 (1:00pm)  
  
Special "Sensory-Friendly" performance on December 17 (6:30pm)

**WHERE:** Performing Arts Complex at Pinnacle Charter School  
1001 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80260  
(West of I-25 at 84<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Huron St.)  
Ample FREE parking!

**TICKETS:** Adult: \$49 prime | \$39 standard | \$29 value  
Senior: \$44 prime | \$34 standard | \$24 value  
Teen: \$44 prime | \$34 standard | \$24 value  
Child: \$40 prime | \$30 standard | \$20 value

Sensory-Friendly Performance: \$10 general admission | Guest of Honor FREE

To order tickets please visit <http://www.nutcracker2021.com> or call 303.466.5685

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** <https://ccdance.org/ticket-policy-and-venues/>

## WHO WE ARE:

Colorado Conservatory of Dance (CCD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization located in Broomfield County. Since 1992, CCD's dance education includes a thriving after-school program, **Move2Learn** residency programs for Title 1 elementary schools, acclaimed **Anti-Bullying Ballet** tours, scholarship programs, and **Sensory-Friendly** performances. Serving over 22,000 students annually, CCD seeks to heighten education, deepen self-esteem, and further the art of dance in a fun and engaging way. CCD makes an important impact for our community and enriches arts education.

Colorado Conservatory of Dance is an anti-racist organization who supports BBIPOC, AAPI, and LGBTQIA+ peoples, as well as all people who have historically been marginalized, oppressed, or underrepresented in our society. We believe in respect for all perspectives, in the value of creativity, in the power of art, and in treating other humans with dignity and kindness. We will not be silent. We will use our platform to end discrimination in the arts.

At CCD, we believe every student deserves the absolute best dance education, regardless of age, ability, aspiration, or socio-economic status. Our program is designed to give students the highest quality dance education in both classic and contemporary styles in a friendly and warm environment. Our syllabus is designed to build strength and versatility in every dancer, allowing each dancer to work in the healthiest, most kinesthetically aware way. At CCD, we truly believe that dance is for everyone and that art can foster community, create positive influence, and inspire the individual, and our faculty, staff, and families reflect every aspect of that belief.

**Dance Expressions** is an inclusive program with a specifically designed adaptive curriculum, which provides children of ALL abilities with a therapeutic dance experience. Students are given the tools for a successful exploration of dance while being in a safe environment. Students will gain increased body awareness, develop fundamental motor skills, improve self-esteem, concentration and focus, and have fun expressing themselves creatively.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

At Colorado Conservatory of Dance, we unleash individual potential and invigorate community through dance.

**For exclusive photo and interview opportunities with Artistic Director Julia Wilkinson Manley or cast members, e-mail or call CCD Communications Coordinator Rachel Long at [rlong@ccdance.org](mailto:rlong@ccdance.org) or 303.466.5685.**