

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ballet Lubbock presents Lubbock's favorite holiday tradition, *The Nutcracker* December 10-12 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre. Four (4) performances will be presented of this beloved holiday ballet:

OPENING NIGHT: Friday/December 10, 7 p.m.

Saturday/Dec. 11, 2 p.m. AND 7 p.m.

FINAL SHOW: Sunday/Dec. 12, 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$16 or \$20 and can be purchased through all Select-A-Seat outlets, including the main box office at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center (1501 Mac Davis Lane). Tickets can also be purchased by phone (806.770.2000 local, 800.735.1288 toll-free) or online at www.selectaseatlubbock.com. Discounted hotel rooms in Lubbock are available, and group rates on purchases of 10+ tickets can be obtained at Select-A-Seat's main box office.

A special Opening Night Reception sponsored by American State Bank is scheduled for 9 p.m. Friday, December 10. **Meet guest artists** Amar Ramasar and NaTalia Johnson at a **decadent and divine dessert reception** filled with luxurious chocolates, luscious cheesecake, warm cider, exquisite wine, and more of your favorite holiday treats!

Tickets are \$10 in advance through Select-A-Seat, or \$15 at the door

Ballet Lubbock's Artistic Director Yvonne Racz Key choreographs this ballet set on over 150 dancers, including students of the Ballet Lubbock School and Company. Ms. Racz Key is a Lubbock native who is celebrating her 13th anniversary season as Ballet Lubbock's Artistic Director. **Guest artists NaTalia Johnson** (Urban Ballet Theatre and Ballet Lubbock Alum) and **Amar Ramasar** (principal dancer with the New York City Ballet) will dance the respective roles of the *Sugar Plum Fairy* and *Cavalier*. Ballet Lubbock's performances of *The Nutcracker* are accompanied by live orchestra under the direction of Gary Lewis.

***The Nutcracker* ballet unfolds a beloved, family holiday story** of Clara and the enchanted Nutcracker doll she receives from her mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer. After a festive holiday party at her home, Clara falls asleep. As Clara dreams, the Nutcracker transforms into a handsome prince who whisks her away to the Land of the Sweets. The pair is joined by the Sugar Plum Fairy (Johnson), Spanish Chocolate, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Candy Canes, enchanted flowers, the boisterous Mother Ginger with her many, many children, and more.

Ballet Lubbock's production of *The Nutcracker* is also made possible in part through grants from The CH Foundation, the Lubbock Area Foundation, Target, the Xcel Energy Foundation, and the City of Lubbock as recommended by Civic Lubbock, Inc.

For more information, including details about *The Nutcracker*, the Ballet Lubbock School and pre-professional Company, guest artist bios, or for interviews/images, contact Marketing/PR Coordinator Nicholas Dragga

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