

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2008

BALLET LUBBOCK

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Ballet Lubbock announces its 31st annual production of *The Nutcracker* at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre. Five (5) performances will be presented for this beloved holiday ballet:

OPENING NIGHT: Thursday/December 11, 7 p.m.

Friday/Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

Saturday/Dec. 13, 2 p.m. AND 8 p.m.

FINAL SHOW: Sunday/Dec. 14, 2 p.m.

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

Ballet Lubbock's Artistic Director Yvonne Racz choreographs this ballet set on over 150 dancers, including students of the Ballet Lubbock School and Company. Ms. Racz is a Lubbock native who is celebrating her 11th anniversary season as Ballet Lubbock's Artistic Director. **Guest artists** from New York City will dance the respective roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier, including celebrated dancer and **Ballet Lubbock alum NaTalia Johnson** (Urban Ballet Theater) **and Amar Ramasar** (soloist, New York City Ballet). Ballet Lubbock's performances of *The Nutcracker* are accompanied by live orchestra under the direction of Gary Lewis, Conductor.

***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 are 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 made possible in part through grants from The CH Foundation, the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the City of Lubbock as recommended by Civic Lubbock, Inc. Sponsorship of *The Nutcracker* comes from City Bank Texas, Betenbough Homes, Target, College Flowers, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, KLBK-13, and Benchmark Business Solutions.

For more information, including details about *The Nutcracker*, the Ballet Lubbock School and pre-professional Company, guest artist bios, or for interviews/images, contact Executive Director Laura Berry (ph: 806.785.3090 / e-mail: laura@balletlubbock.org).

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