



# THE NUTCRACKER

AND *The Battle for the Key*



A Co-Production of Ellensburg Dance  
Ensemble, & Central Washington University  
Dance, Orchestra & Theatre Programs

# Welcome to The Nutcracker & The Battle for the Key!

We are delighted to have you join us for this enchanting reimaging of a beloved holiday tradition. This year, the Ellensburg Dance Ensemble brings you a fresh and heartfelt tale filled with wonder, courage, and the enduring power of hope.

Our dancers, choreographers, and creative team have poured their hearts into this production to bring Clara's journey to life—a story of family, love, and the magic of believing in yourself.

Whether you're a long-time fan or experiencing The Nutcracker for the first time, we hope you are transported by the beauty of the music, the artistry of the dancers, and the joy of this performance.

Thank you for supporting the arts and being part of our community. Enjoy the show!

## Our Production Team

**EDE Producers:** Kim Rivera & Daniele Ray

**EDE Artistic Director:** Serena Scheffer-Arango

**EDE Assistant Artistic Director:** Jill Scheffer

**EDE Choreographers:** Therese Young, Serena Scheffer-Arango,  
Emma Tolmich, Anna Rose

**EDE Fight Choreographer:** David Connolly

**EDE Orchestra Conductor:** Allion Salvador

**EDE Costume Design:** Rebecca Carter

**EDE Props Team:** Daniele & Dustin Ray

**EDE Back of House & Quick Changes:** Jessica Kamin & Samantha Larson

**EDE Graphic Designer:** Matt Wenz, Wenz Creative

**CWU Lighting Designer:** Hattie Tow

**CWU Production Manager:** Jerald Dougherty

**CWU Flyman/Backstage Crew:** Nick Zimny

**CWU Stage Manager:** Paris Marie

**CWU Light Board Operator:** Cesar Trejo

**CWU Followspot Operators:** Allison Knaff, Alana Nelson

**CWU House Manager:** Alana Fitzgerald



# Our Story

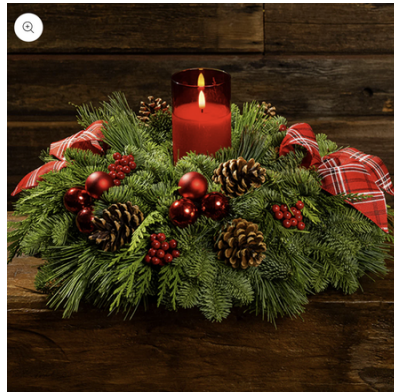
In *The Nutcracker & The Battle for the Key*, Clara Stahlbaum bids an emotional farewell to her twin brother Alexander as he departs for war, leaving her a precious music box as a symbol of their bond. When the war ends, Alexander returns during a festive family celebration. However, before he can give Clara the music box key, a mischievous rat steals it, leading Clara on a magical adventure orchestrated by Uncle Drosselmeyer.

In Act 1, Clara finds herself amid a battle between toy soldiers and rats. The key shatters into four pieces during the chaos, and Clara defeats the Rat Queen with the Nutcracker's help. The Snow Queen appears in a swirling snowstorm and gifts Clara the first piece of the broken key.

Act 2 takes Clara to the Land of Sweets and Flowers, where she encounters whimsical characters, vibrant dances, and the regal but scheming Sugar Plum Fairy, who secretly covets the key. Alongside the Nutcracker, Clara collects the remaining pieces of the key while facing challenges and uncovering betrayals.

In the finale, Clara bravely reclaims the last piece of the key in a climactic battle with the Sugar Plum Fairy. She returns to the party, where time has stood still, and shares her triumph with Alexander. Together, they open the music box and dance to its melody, celebrating love, family, and Clara's courage as the curtain falls.

## Light Up Your Holidays & Support EDE



Lynch Creek  
Farm Wreaths

Order amazing wreaths, table top trees, and centerpieces for delivery before Christmas!

**[ellensburgdance.org](http://ellensburgdance.org)**

# Our Amazing Cast - Act 1

## The Prologue

Layla Rivera ..... Little Rat  
Anna Rose ..... Clara  
Trip Landon ..... Alexander  
Eponine Romo ..... Frau Stahlbaum  
Johnny Landon ..... Herr Stahlbaum  
Patrick Nolan ..... The Butler  
Nathaniel Arango .... Voice of Alexander

## The Party Scene

Matthew Anderton ..... Drosselmeyer  
Serena Scheffer-Arango .. Jester Doll  
Emma Slowe ..... Ballerina Doll  
Aliyah Crumrine ..... Soldier Doll

## The Party Scene - Party Guests

Dave Barnett	Eva Luna Delgado	Julie Lindberg	Rylee Peery
Jared Carter	Elena Delgado	Terri Matthews	Sydney Rideout
Sadie Cecil	Charlotte Frantz	Deanna Miller	Javi Romo
Marley Chandler	Hadley Kidd	Anastacia Neuman	
Albie Clemente	Aurora Konold	Patrick Nolan	
Audrey Crane	Reagan Larson	Kayden Ray	
Milo Crane	Rylee Larson		

## The Battle

Vera Kamin ..... Big Rat  
Serena Scheffer-Arango .... Rat Queen  
Anna Rose ..... Clara  
Trip Landon ..... Nutcracker

Audrey Crane ..... Soldier  
Milo Crane ..... Soldier  
Terri Matthews ..... Soldier  
Rylee Peery ..... Soldier  
Daniele Ray ..... Soldier

Natalie Carter ..... Battle Rat  
Samuel-Asher Grieve ..... Battle Rat  
Braelynn Newby ..... Battle Rat  
Jack Ray ..... Battle Rat  
Stella Wenz ..... Battle Rat

## The Forest of Snow

Emma Slowe ..... Snow Queen  
Anna Rose ..... Clara  
Trip Landon ..... Nutcracker

## Snowflakes

Sadie Cecil  
Audrey Crane  
Aliyah Crumrine  
Vera Kamin  
Sydney Rideout  
Eponine Romo  
Serena Scheffer-Arango  
Emma Tolmich



# Our Amazing Cast - Act 2

## The Land of Sweets

Vera Kamin.....Big Rat  
Eponine Romo.....Mother Ginger  
Johnny Landon.....Consort  
Emma Tolmich.....Sugar Plum Fairy  
Anna Rose.....Clara  
Trip Landon .....Nutcracker  
Marley Chandler        Jack Ray  
Samuel-Asher Grieve    Stella Wenz  
Javi Romo

## Spicy Hot Chocolate

Audrey Crane.....Spiciest  
Milo Crane  
Serena Scheffer-Arango

## Coffee

Anastacia Neuman....Queen Coffee  
Natalie Carter        Reagan Larson  
Vera Kamin        Braelynn Newby  
Aurora Konold        Kayden Ray

## Candy Canes

Sadie Cecil        Sydney Rideout  
Audrey Crane        Javi Romo  
Milo Crane        Rylee Peery  
                          Stella Wenz

## Sweet Tea

Hadley Kidd....Hummingbird  
Charlotte Frantz  
Rylee Larson  
Layla Rivera

## Cotton Candy

Eponine Romo...Mother Ginger  
Johnny Landon.....Consort  
Samuel-Asher Grieve...Cotton  
Candy Machine Handler

## Marzipan

Aliyah Crumrine  
Emma Slowe

Marley Chandler        Jack Ray  
Charlotte Frantz        Kayden Ray  
Aurora Konold        Layla Rivera  
Braelynn Newby        Javi Romo  
                                  Stella Wenz

## Waltz of the Flowers

Aliyah Crumrine.....Dew Drop Fairy

## Flower Buds

Braelynn Newby  
Layla Rivera

## Flowers

Serena Scheffer-Arango  
Emma Slowe

## Pas de Deux

Emma Tolmich.....Sugar Plum Fairy  
Anna Rose .....Clara  
Trip Landon.....Nutcracker  
Vera Kamin.....Big Rat

## Finale - The Party Scene

Matthew Anderton  
Dave Barnett  
Jared Carter  
Sadie Cecil  
Marley Chandler  
Albie Clemente  
Audrey Crane  
Milo Crane

Eva Luna Delgado  
Elena Delgado  
Charlotte Frantz  
Hadley Kidd  
Aurora Konold  
Johnny Landon  
Trip Landon

Reagan Larson  
Rylee Larson  
Julie Lindberg  
Terri Matthews  
Deanna Miller  
Anastacia Neuman  
Patrick Nolan

Rylee Peery  
Kayden Ray  
Sydney Rideout  
Layla Rivera  
Javi Romo  
Eponine Romo  
Anna Rose

# *Coming December 2025 - A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Step into the whimsical and heartfelt world of **A Charlie Brown Christmas**, reimagined as a captivating dance performance accompanied by the iconic Vince Guaraldi soundtrack played on stage by a live trio of musicians. This unique production brings Charles Schulz's timeless story to life through a dazzling blend of jazz, swing, ballet, and contemporary dance styles.

Follow Charlie Brown as he searches for the true meaning of Christmas, navigating the chaos of holiday preparations, Snoopy's antics, Lucy's advice, and the Peanuts gang's hilarious attempts at putting on a Christmas play. Along the way, Linus' quiet wisdom and a scraggly little tree help remind everyone of the season's deeper meaning.

Featuring live music performed by a trio of jazz musicians—piano, stand-up bass, and drums—onstage with the dancers, the show seamlessly integrates Guaraldi's beloved melodies with expressive choreography. Each of the 11 iconic tracks from the soundtrack inspires a unique scene, from Snoopy's playful solos to the magical "Skating" ensemble and the moving finale around the glowing Christmas tree.

With its mix of humor, heart, and holiday spirit, **A Charlie Brown Christmas** is a joyous celebration for audiences of all ages. This one-of-a-kind performance will leave you smiling, humming, and inspired to find the simple joys of the season.

Planning starts in the Spring of 2025 with auditions in the fall and a December 2025 performance! If you want to help, email [admin@ellensburgdance.org](mailto:admin@ellensburgdance.org)!

## *Our Incredible Family of Show Helpers!*

These big shows don't succeed without a village of helpers! From costume making to backstage planning and fundraising...**Thank You** to all our family of helpers!

Christina Frantz  
Samantha Larson  
Lynn Grieve  
Corinne Grieve  
Tia Chandler  
Suzanne Konold  
Johnny Landon  
Jessica Kamin

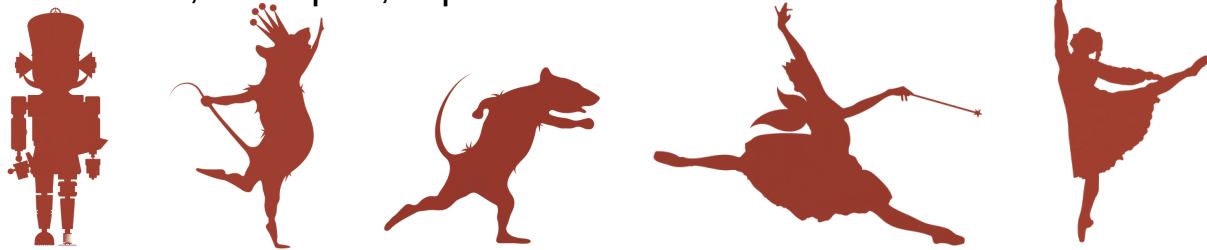
Bethany Newby  
Laura Landon  
Amy Ramsey  
Terri Matthews  
Sydney Rideout  
Andreina Delgado  
Karlie Kidd  
Anastacia Neuman

*Thank  
you!*

# Our Artists

## Artistic Director - Serena Scheffer-Arango

Serena is a freshman at CWU. This Nutcracker season she is filling many roles, including artistic director, choreographer, and dancer. She has been dancing for about 15 years and has experience with styles such as ballet, modern, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, tap, and musical theatre. She teaches classes at The Studio by EDE, loves reading and staying inside, and will eat any chocolate treat that is put in front of her. Along with overseeing the entire show, Serena choreographed the Little & Big Rat, Prologue Act 1, parts of the Party Scene & Finale, Jester Doll & Soldier Doll, parts of The Battle, Marzipan, & parts of the Pas de Deux.



## Choreographer - Therese Young

Therese is a CWU Emeritus Professor of Dance who ran the CWU Dance Program and directed the performance company 'Orchesis' for 20+years. She choreographed the adult dances in the Party Scene & Finale, the twinkle party girls, and the waltzes with Alexander/Nutcracker & Clara.

## Choreographer - Anna Rose

Anna has been dancing since she was four years old -- mostly ballet and contemporary, but with a little jazz in there, too! She coached Port Townsend Ballet's competition team for three seasons and directed/choreographed PTB productions Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, and The Nutcracker. When she's not dancing, you'll probably see her around town a lot with a camera (she's a reporter for the Daily Record) and she teaches at The Studio by EDE. Anna choreographed parts of the Battle, Prologue to Act 2, Spicy Hot Chocolate, Candy Canes, & parts of the Pas de Deux.

## Choreographer - Emma Tolmich

Emma is in her fourth year at Central Washington University. She is studying Theater Production Design and Dance. Some of her favorite roles have been the lion in the Wizard of Oz and one of the 3 fairies in Sleeping Beauty. Emma has been dancing since she was 3 and loves to share her passion with others and teaches at The Studio by EDE. Emma choreographed the Ballerina Doll, The Forest of Snow, Coffee, Sweet Tea, Cotton Candy, Land of Flowers, & parts of the Pas de Deux.

## Fight Choreographer - David Connolly

David is a MFA graduate in Classical Acting from George Washington University, is a skilled fight choreographer and stunt performer known for his stylized sword and knife choreography. David choreographed the fight between the Rat Queen & The Nutcracker to ensure our dancers would be safe with real swords!



# *Our Incredible CWU Orchestra*

## **Conductor: Allion Salvador**

Mr. Salvador is the 1st prize winner of the 2021 Music International Grand Prix, co-concertmaster of Missoula-based String Orchestra of the Rockies, concertmaster of Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, associate concertmaster of Yakima Symphony, guest concertmaster at Seattle's Paramount Theater, and a member of the Spokane Symphony. He is a regular guest artist with the Yakima-based Sempre Chamber Music series and SMCO Secret Chamber Music, collaborating with artists including Nathan Chan, Maria Larionoff, Jorja Fleezanis, and Denise Dillenbeck. As a conductor, he is the music director of the Federal Way Youth Orchestra, associate conductor of Wenatchee Valley Symphony, visiting artist at Yakima Music en Acción, and founding music director of the Seattle Philharmonic Strings, a chamber orchestra bringing rarely played string repertoire to new communities. Mr. Salvador graduated with degrees in Violin Performance and Neurobiology from the University of Washington, and completed graduate work in violin at the University of Oregon and Manhattan School of Music. He is currently a conducting student of Nikolas Caoile at Central Washington University. His teachers include Lisa Kim and Ronald Patterson in violin, and Michael Jinbo, Kenneth Kiesler, and Ludovic Morlot in conducting. Festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Round Top Music Festival, and the Pierre Monteux School.

### **Flute**

Brianna Wilcher

### **Trumpet**

Sean Sproul  
Caleb Henchman

### **Violin II**

Aslan Rames  
Lorenzo Coughlin

### **Oboe**

James Correa

### **Trombone**

Skie Dalsbo

### **Viola**

Luis Anguiano  
Matt Reagan

### **Clarinet**

Emily Wall  
Phoebe Anderson

### **Celeste**

Elliot Matteson

### **Cello**

Dylan Bell  
Aidan White

### **Bassoon/Cello**

Beckett Thiel-Takata

### **Timpani/Percussion**

Gabriel Espitia  
Julianna Pearl de Jesus

### **Bass**

Micah Lee

### **Horn**

Julia McConnachie  
Alex Chinnery

### **Violin I**

Eliana Cobbs  
Lesly Cadena  
Ashlyn Crocker

### **Harp**

Kelly Hou

# Our Generous Sponsors

## Costume Sponsor (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
- Ellensburg Arts Commission
- Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN)
- Elmview
- Dustin & Daniele Ray
- Tim Surber - State Farm Insurance
- Arts Washington



## Stage Sponsor (\$500 - \$999)

- Kittitas Valley Healthcare
- APS Survey & Mapping
- Herner-Fredell-Crane Family
- Old Mill Country Store

## Props Sponsor (\$250 - \$499)

- Parker Orthodontics
- Root n' Tilly Media
- Anderton Law Firm
- Ellensburg Community Radio
- Little Big Kids Dentistry
- Creekside Dental
- Claire & Mike Walsh
- Cashmere Valley Bank
- ReCycle Bicycle Shop



## Backstage Sponsor (\$100 - \$249)

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D&amp;M Coffee</li> <li>• Fidelina's</li> <li>• Whole Health Pharmacy</li> <li>• Ranch &amp; Home</li> <li>• House of Style</li> <li>• Kittitas Interactive Management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pearl Street Books</li> <li>• Helen House</li> <li>• Mid-State Co-Op</li> <li>• Umpqua Bank</li> <li>• Ellensburg Floral</li> <li>• CW Barber Shop</li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## Rehearsal Sponsor (\$50 - \$99)

- In Memory of Elizabeth Williams
- The Copy Shop



# Theatre Etiquette

- Please turn off all cell phones and any other devices that make noise.
- Flash photography and videography is not allowed. Dancers can become disoriented.
- Please visit our souvenir & refreshments stand during intermission and support our dancers with your purchases.
- No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium, so please enjoy your treats in the lobby.
- **Performers will stay on stage after the show for photos & autographs. Stay around to greet your favorite dancers! Use #edenutcracker for posted photos!**

## Show Photos by Brindy Ruby Photography

"If you are of the belief that family photos can't be fun, read on..."

If you haven't experienced photos with me, let me tell you, we have fun! I promise, your session with me will be easy peasy lemon squeezy. My goal, and what I've worked on for years, is creating a photo session experience that is easy for your family. I have fun games that will entertain your kids and help everyone, including dad, feel at home.



I want to turn family photos into something your family loves to do. Not only will you have a fun and easy time, but you will get to have amazing pictures of your family that show love and last a lifetime. Family, Newborn, Maternity and Senior photos should be stress-free, easy and fun! Don't you agree?"

## Show Shirts & Raffle Items

If you want to purchase a show shirt of your own, scan the below QR code to place your order. You can select pick up from Shirtworks or delivery to your home.



Be sure to visit the souvenir stand in the lobby to purchase raffle tickets for amazing gift baskets!

**\$1 per ticket  
or \$20 for your height in tickets**

The winner will be drawn at the end of each show (after final bows).  
**You must be present to win.**



# Our Non-Profit Dance Studio

Ellensburg Dance Ensemble is more than a performance company—it's a vibrant nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching our community through the art of dance. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EDE not only produces high-quality performances, such as *The Nutcracker* & *The Battle for the Key*, but also operates the only nonprofit dance studio in the region.

Our studio offers classes for dancers of all ages and skill levels, fostering a love for movement and creativity while making dance accessible to everyone. By focusing on the development of our dancers, the expertise of our instructors, and the quality of our facilities, EDE ensures that every aspect of our work prioritizes community impact over individual profit.

When you join a class or attend a performance, you're not just supporting the arts—you're investing in a mission to nurture creativity, inclusivity, and artistic excellence in Ellensburg and beyond. We hope you will be a part of our journey. Together, we're building a stronger, more inspired community through the power of dance.

## Choosing the right dance class

### 3-5 years old

- Family Dance
- Tiny All Things Dance
- Tiny Ballet
- Tiny Creative Dance
- Tiny Movement
- Tiny Tappers
- Tiny Tumblers



### Level 2 - Ages 8 and Up

- Acro 2
- Ballet 2
- Tap 2
- Dance Technique 2
- Pom Dance2
- Hip Hop 2
- Jazz 2
- Lyrical 2
- Strength/Conditioning 2
- Musical Theatre 2



### Level 1 - Ages 5 and Up

- Acro 1
- Ballet 1
- Tap 1
- Dance Technique 1
- Pom Dance 1
- Hip Hop 1
- Jazz 1
- Lyrical 1
- Strength/Conditioning 1
- Musical Theatre 1



### Level 3 & Adult - Ages 14 and Up

- Just Dance
- Ballet 3
- Acro 3
- Adult Ballet
- Adult Ballroom
- Adult Body Positivity Class
- Adult Hip Hop
- Adult Hula Hoop Groove
- Adult Lyrical
- Adult Musical Theater
- Adult Roller Skate Skills
- Adult Stretching and Mobility
- Adult Tap
- Adult Zumba Dance



### Not Sure What To Try?

- Private lessons
- Punch card for drop in classes



Register Today!



# Discover the Heart of Dance and Community at Ellensburg Dance Ensemble

Ellensburg Dance Ensemble (EDE) is the only nonprofit dance studio and company in the region, passionately dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults through dance, community arts, and unique performance experiences. EDE fosters an inclusive and dynamic atmosphere where dancers of all ages can express themselves, learn, and grow in the art of dance.

## Classes for All Ages

At EDE, we offer classes for ages 3 through adult, spanning a variety of styles. Whether you're a beginner exploring movement for the first time, an advanced dancer seeking new challenges, or simply looking for a fun way to stay active, EDE has something for everyone. Our class lineup includes ballet, jazz, hip-hop, musical theater, belly dance, Zumba, lyrical dance, hula dance, contemporary, and even roller skating. For adults, we offer drop-in options as well as an 8-class pass, making it easy to join in at your convenience.

## Iconic Productions and Community Performances

EDE is known for its annual productions, bringing beloved classics and innovative new performances to life on the big stage. This season, we're thrilled to present *The Nutcracker & The Battle for the Key*—a fresh reimaging of the holiday classic that combines magical storytelling, stunning choreography, and live orchestration. Our shows provide a unique platform for local talent and create cherished memories for audiences of all ages. In 2025 look for our spring showcase and a new winter show, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*!

## Event Rentals at Our Studio

Our two beautiful studio spaces are available to rent for private events, meetings, and parties. With spacious rooms, ample natural light, and all the amenities you need, our studios are perfect for hosting events with a creative flair. We offer flexible rental packages and are excited to help you customize your event to make it unforgettable.

## Visit Us!

Located in the heart of downtown Ellensburg, EDE is not just a dance studio—it's a vibrant part of the community. Drop by to learn more about our programs, watch a class in action, or explore how you can be part of our upcoming productions and events.

Whether you're a resident or visiting Ellensburg, join us at Ellensburg Dance Ensemble, where the arts, community, and creativity come alive!

**[ellensburgdance.org](https://ellensburgdance.org)**



Register for  
Classes



ELLENSBURG DANCE ENSEMBLE



Rent the Studio

**Studio A - 307 North Main & Studio B - 118 East 4th**