

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1985, Salt Creek Ballet is a leading 501(c)3 not-for-profit Chicagoland ballet school and performance company dedicated to dance education, while providing high-level performance opportunities for our dancers, founded upon the discipline and artistry of classical ballet.

Salt Creek Ballet's high standards and unique blend of major classical productions and artistically diverse and challenging repertory programs have brought critical acclaim, sold-out performances, and a loyal following. Internationally known guest artists, choreographers, and designers regularly work with Salt Creek Ballet to provide dancers and audiences alike with a level of performance usually associated with professional companies.

At the heart of our ethos, we not only encourage appreciation and awareness of dance but believe dance education is of the highest priority. This philosophy drives our dedication to nurturing our dancers with the disciplines and life skills that dance teaches, which encourages them to reach their greatest potential in and out of the studio, no matter what life path they take.

Salt Creek Ballet Company Alumni have charted diverse artistic journeys— some have been accepted to prestigious dance programs at universities such as Butler, Oklahoma, Indiana, Purdue, NYU, Boston, and Utah. SCB alumni have gone on to dance with: The Royal Ballet, Zurich Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Las Vegas Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Indianapolis Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance, Cirque du Soleil, Radio City Rockettes, Lucky Plush Productions, national and international Broadway-touring companies and various other regional classical and contemporary dance and performance companies.

Salt Creek Ballet engages directly with our community, in our community, through a continuous and robust outreach program that exposes the world of dance to numerous audiences both young and old with professional-quality productions and a dance curriculum to excite and inspire.

Welcoming students of all ages and levels, Salt Creek Ballet's school offers a rich curriculum that spans classical ballet, character, jazz, modern, and more. Our world-class instructors, with their wealth of experience and exceptional pedigrees, are the torchbearers of our tradition, enlightening and shaping the next generation of dancers.

SCB operates a 10,000, square foot facility housing four dance studios located in Westmont, Illinois. The organization employs five executive, artistic, and administrative staff, eleven dance instructors, and three pianists.

Support Us As We Nurture Artistic Excellence in Dance, Promote Enhanced Learning Through Movement and Music, and Extend Our Stage Into The Community Exposing Ballet To All Ages



Spring  To Support
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OUR *Nutcracker* LEGACY

Salt Creek Ballet's timeless tradition for over 37 years is our annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Our critically acclaimed performances can be seen beginning Thanksgiving weekend at three venues; Hinsdale Central High School, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, and McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage. Through these performances, our SCB dancers bring the magic of *The Nutcracker* to audiences of thousands.

The Nutcracker is exquisitely performed by Salt Creek Ballet Company Dancers and students, dancing side-by-side with Internationally known guest artists, representing prestigious companies such as Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and New York Ballet to name a few.

Salt Creek Ballet gives audiences a timeless masterpiece to remember, while simultaneously giving our dancers the experience of taking the stage with these highly accomplished dancers.



CHILDREN'S DIVISION THE LITTLE *Nutcracker*



In addition to our critically acclaimed stage production of *The Nutcracker*, our smallest students are given a level-appropriate introduction to this ballet charmingly named *The Little Nutcracker*. Here students learn the elegant choreography of smaller versions of the performance and are exposed to instruction and ballet production, all while having fun! This performance is presented in video form.

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Music by Pitor Llyich Tchaikovsky
Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman

MEET OUR BOARD

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Kathleen Sievertsen
Treasurer

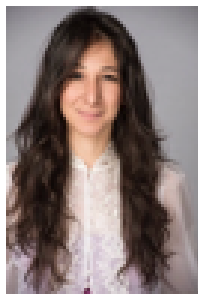
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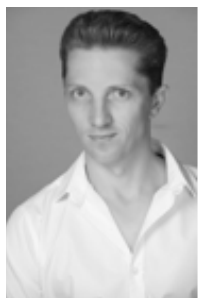


MEET OUR DIRECTORS



Erica De La O, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Erica De La O, from East Los Angeles, CA, has had a distinguished career in classical ballet, performing principal roles in iconic productions like La Sylphide, Giselle, Swan Lake, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, Coppelia, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty, Les Sylphides, and Lady of the Camellias. She also has performed leading roles in contemporary works by Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, Stephen Baynes, Adam Houghland, Lucas Jervies, Val Caniparoli, Ben Stevenson, Harrison McEldowney, Helen Pickett, Ma Cong, and many others. Her honors include the Sono Osato Award, the John Orr Award from the Pasadena Arts Council, Kentucky Women Foundation, a fellowship from Hadley Creatives, and a silver medal at the Los Angeles' Music Center Spotlight Awards. Erica created Bunhead Talks, an educational vehicle to examine dance through the anthropological lens, and parent/student dance education. Erica holds an MFA from Hollins University. She earned an EMBA from the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky Schools of Business. Salt Creek Ballet, under the Artistic Direction of Erica De La O and her husband Kristopher Wojtera, has created family-friendly ballet series: Swan Lake 2023 and Don Quixote 2024, further solidifying Erica's impact on the ballet community as both an artist and a visionary leader.



Kristopher Wojtera, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kristopher Wojtera, born in Poland, embarked on his ballet journey at the National Ballet School in Gdansk at age ten. Over 28 years, he flourished as a Principal artist, portraying leading roles in classical and contemporary ballets, and collaborating with renowned choreographers worldwide. His career spanned engagements with prestigious companies like Polish National Theatre, English National Ballet, and Louisville Ballet. While actively performing, he pursued further education, obtaining a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Hollins University and Vaganova Teaching certifications. Recognized for his talent and dedication, he received awards including the Carolina New House Scholarship and the Sono Osato Award. Now serving as Artistic Director, he brings a wealth of experience to Salt Creek Ballet, where he will share his expertise through teaching, coaching, and shaping the company's artistic vision. Wojtera eagerly anticipates contributing to the advancement of Salt Creek Ballet's mission.



Gibby Kirby, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gibby attended Parkland College, receiving an Associate's Degree in Theatre and Accounting. He then attended Illinois State University, receiving a Bachelor's in Dance Performance and was a company member with the Illinois State Dance Theater. He was a company member of the Champaign Urbana Ballet, where he performed numerous roles in Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Salt Creek Ballet's robust **Community Engagement Programs** enhance the cultural fabric of Chicago's western suburbs, and the Chicagoland area by sharing our love for dance with community members, organizations, and schools.

Salt Creek Ballet annually offers multiple single-session programs and multiple-session programs at venues across the community including Westmont and Skokie Public Libraries, The Morton Arboretum, DuPage Children's Museum, Girl Scout events, and more.

DANCE EXPLORERS



Launched in the Spring of 2022, Our **Dance Explorers Program** at Salt Creek Ballet is tailored for children from Pre-K to 3rd grade and serves as a delightful and fun entry into the vibrant world of dance.

This initiative invites young ones to our studios, where they discover and experience a variety of different dance styles at the beginner level. Designed not only to foster a love for dance, **Dance Explorers** classes are designed to enhance sensory-motor skills and cognitive abilities by immersing children in the joyful and creative exploration of movement through dance.

Dance Explorers includes children from low-income households, minorities, and individuals with disabilities who would otherwise not be exposed to dance and its benefits.

With your help, Salt Creek Ballet is delighted to offer this program at NO cost to participating families.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LITERACY THROUGH DANCE



Our **Literacy Through Dance** program combines the beauty of literature with the expressiveness of movement, creating a dynamic and enriching experience for early elementary school children.

We go into the schools and bring fairy tales to life with ballet and classical music within their very own classrooms, exposing students to a multi-week immersion in the arts.

The program extends beyond the classroom with opportunities for students to visit the Salt Creek Ballet Studios in Westmont and enjoy complimentary attendance at our annual showcases, including the beloved Nutcracker performances.

Why is this important?

New research has found a strong memory link for concepts when language is paired with movement, making this program an innovative approach to learning.

The profound impact on our students is measured both in numbers and narratives, through rigorous pre and post-program vocabulary testing, and careful observation of student involvement and reaction.

How we make it happen:

We partner with Westmont School Districts ASD4 and D201. Our programs are designed to be versatile and effective.

Each grade level is tailored to fit the unique academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of each school environment.

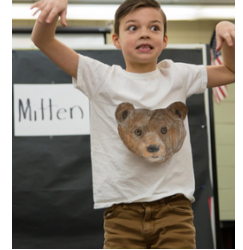


COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

We bring literature to life through music and dance!

Children learn dance movements based on characters from a selected theme/book and perform for their parents.



LECTURE SERIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS



Targeted toward the retirement community and other community groups, our visiting artists, accompanied by our Salt Creek Ballet Company dancers dressed in beautifully made costumes, share insights into the production and artistic process of dance productions.

Lecture demonstrations run 45 minutes and can be tailored to fit the needs of your community group or retirement community.

These include Pre-Performance Group Lectures - Salt Creek Ballet offers a preview of the upcoming performances as well as insights into the choreographic process, (approximately 20-25 minutes long).

LED BY DR. KELLY STOKES



Community Engagement Coordinator

Dr. Stokes received her Ed.D. in Dance Education from Temple University. She received both her B.A. and M.A. degrees in Physical Education and Dance at the University of Southern California. Stokes is currently a Humanities professor at the College of DuPage.

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IN THE NEWS

Salt Creek Ballet is proud to be featured either in print or on television by the following:

Chicago Tribune

Daily Herald

**Arts
DuPage**
A DuPage Foundation Initiative

The Hinsdalean

CHICAGO PARENT



**THE
Beacon-News**

MOMMY POPPINS



CHICAGO CRITIC



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PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partnerships from August 2024 through June 2025

All supporters will be invited to an exclusive donor reception during the Partnership Period.

Underwriting

\$25,000 - Presenting Sponsor

- Exclusive sponsor of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra at all three (3) Hinsdale Central performances of *The Nutcracker*
- Logo at bottom of SCB website
- Photo backdrop at all *Nutcracker* shows
- Full-color, back cover ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Banner at Hinsdale Central *Nutcracker* performances, at the Sugar Plum Party, and at SCB studio
- Mentioned in pre-show announcements in Fall and Spring productions
- Social media presence
- Ten (10) tickets to Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event
- Company name included in production press release and logo in all print ads

\$10,000 - Sugar Plum Sponsor

- Exclusive sponsor for the *Nutcracker* Sugar Plum Party at Hinsdale Central
- Logo at bottom of SCB website
- Photo backdrop at Sugar Plum Party
- Full-color ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books (inside back or front cover)
- Banners Sugar Plum Party and SCB studio
- Social media presence
- Eight (8) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event
- Company logo in all print ads

\$6,000 - Production Sponsor

- Logo displayed in light on the curtain prior to the three (3) Hinsdale Central performances of *The Nutcracker*
- Half-page ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Banner at Hinsdale Central *Nutcracker* performances
- Social media presence
- Six (6) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event

\$3,000 - Boutique Sponsor

- Quarter (¼) page ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Signage at *The Nutcracker* boutique
- Social media presence
- Four (4) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central

\$2,000 - Concessions Sponsor

- Quarter (¼) page ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Signage at *The Nutcracker* concession area
- Social media presence
- Two (2) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central



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PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
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Sponsorships

\$20,000 - Platinum

- Logo at bottom of SCB website
- Photo backdrop at all *Nutcracker* shows
- Full-color ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books (inside back or front cover)
- Banner at Hinsdale Central *Nutcracker* performances and at SCB studio
- Mentioned in pre-show announcements in Fall and Spring productions
- Social media presence
- Ten (10) tickets to Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event
- Company name included in production press release and logo in all print ads

\$10,000 - Gold

- Logo at bottom of SCB website
- Photo backdrop at all *Nutcracker* shows
- Full-color ad in the *Nutcracker* and Spring program books (inside back or front cover)
- Banner at Hinsdale Central *Nutcracker* performances and at SCB studio
- Social media presence
- Eight (8) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event
- Company name included in production press release and logo in all print ads

\$7,500 - Silver

- Photo backdrop at all *Nutcracker* shows
- Full-page black and white ad in *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Banner at Hinsdale Central *Nutcracker* performances and at SCB studio
- Social media presence
- Six (6) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central
- Opportunity for a promotional table at a SCB event

\$5,000 - Bronze

- Half (½) page ad in *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Banner at SCB studio
- Social media presence
- Four (4) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central

\$2,500 - Copper

- Quarter (¼) page ad in *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Social media presence
- Two (2) tickets to the Saturday evening *Nutcracker* show at Hinsdale Central

\$1,000 - Partner

- Quarter (¼) page ad in *Nutcracker* and Spring program books
- Two (2) tickets to the Saturday evening show at Hinsdale Central



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HOW TO SUPPORT



FINALIZE YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Email lkavanaugh@saltcreekballet.org or call (630) 927-7676.

All underwriting and sponsorship packages can be custom-tailored to meet your company's needs.

TO DONATE ONLINE

The scanned QR code takes you to the Salt Creek Ballet donations page. Once there, hit the **DONATE** button. Here you can donate via credit card or PayPal.



TO MAIL YOUR DONATION

Salt Creek Ballet
98 East Chicago Avenue
Westmont, IL 60559

Make your check payable to *Salt Creek Ballet* and note *Spring to Support* on the memo line.



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