



ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater presents
The Nutcracker
5th Anniversary Production
December 15, 2019 | 12:00pm & 5:00pm
East Midwood Jewish Center



The Nutcracker, 2017 & 2018. Photos by Matt Carr Photography. Courtesy of ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater.

November 21, 2019 - Brooklyn, NY: ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater presents its 5th Anniversary production of *The Nutcracker* on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 12:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom of East Midwood Jewish Center. Company members of ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater and students of the school will perform in an interactive ensemble production.

Director Alden LaPaglia sets *The Nutcracker's* classical choreography and original score within a re-imagined framework of immersive theater. Her playful interpretation of the ballet envisions the audience as part of the theatrical landscape, as dancers invite viewers to participate at key moments throughout the production. The seating area runs flush with the stage, breaking down the so-called "fourth wall" as audience members enjoy such scenes as Clara's party, the battle of the rats, and the Sugar Plum Fairy's Land of the Sweets up close. The result is a collapsing of the audience-performer divide in which choreography and improvisation weave together seamlessly.

LaPaglia's artistic vision harnesses the expertise of her local and extended community. Company members and students aged 3 to 10 are joined by adult character actors for a robust cast of performers. Original set and props are designed by Joseph LaPaglia (Ms. LaPaglia's father) and complement the 1920s architecture of the Grand Ballroom. Custom set pieces are designed by Edith Hyman and costumes—from Mother Ginger's skirt full of children to the Sugar Plum Fairy's quintessential tutu—are created by Antonia Xereas and Gennessee Allen-Chan.

Tickets are available for purchase at aldenmovesbk.com/nutcracker: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For kids age 2+: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, space permitting.

COMPANY DANCER BIOS

Alden LaPaglia

Director, ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater (Columbine Doll, Spanish Dance)

LaPaglia's mission is to inspire the way she has been inspired, both on stage and as a teacher. LaPaglia holds a dual BA in Dance and Psychology from Goucher College and received her Pilates certification under the direct tutelage of Romana Kryzanowska, who trained under Joseph Pilates himself, and Kryzanowska's daughter Sari Santo. LaPaglia received her early dance training at the School of Richmond Ballet, and performed in The Richmond Ballet's Company production of *The Nutcracker* for nine years, which has shaped her approach to her own production of *The Nutcracker*.

LaPaglia has toured nationally as a featured dancer in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and danced as a soloist in annual Luigi Tributes and with Becky Radway Dance Projects, Incidents Physical Theater and choreographer Sarah Seely. She also performed at the Kennedy Center with Goucher's Choreographie Antique. Her choreography has been featured in Snorks and Pins' *Romeo and Juliet*, *Angry Birds The Musical* (West Village Musical Theater Festival), Dixon Place, the Fourth Arts Block Festival, and many other venues throughout New York City. LaPaglia has over 15 years of teaching experience, at various schools including the Maryland School of Ballet and Modern Dance, and NYC Elite. As a Pilates Instructor, she has served on the faculty of Steps on Broadway and Peridance Center, the adjunct faculty at Hofstra University, the Pilates staff at Goucher College, and as an off-ice conditioning coach at Chesapeake Skating school.

Sophia Andreyev (Harlequin, Mirliton Lead)

Sophia is a New York City-based dancer, instructor, and choreographer. She graduated with a BFA in Dance from Mercyhurst University, where she performed extensively in both classical ballets such as *La Fille Mal Gardee*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and an excerpt of José Limón's *Waldstein Sonata*, as well as in numerous original pieces created by her faculty, peers, and guest artists. Since graduating, she has performed internationally, in New York City with ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater, and in the critically acclaimed immersive production *The Hidden Ones*, also in New York City. Sophia is happy to be teaching and performing with ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater for a second year.

Sarah Elaz (Rat, Dew Drop)

Sarah is a dancer and choreographer from North Andover, Massachusetts. She earned dual degrees in Dance and Physics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and was awarded the Chancellor's Talent Scholarship for dance. She moved to New York City after participating in Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's 5-month Dance Journey program, where she trained intensively with the company in Israel. Sarah is currently a dancer in the multimedia play *SHE: A Choreoplay*, which has been performed at New York Live Arts, Brooklyn Museum, HERE Arts Center, New York Ethical Society, and at colleges throughout the United States. Sarah is also the resident choreographer for the Brooklyn pop-band Jimmy & The Band. She has been featured in several music videos and live concerts for bands like KITTEN, the James Brown Dance Party, and Miss Dukes & The Package. Sarah has performed works with VashtiDance Theater, Heath in Progress, Mollet Contemporary Ballet, and Danza Organica.

She hopes to continue dancing and choreographing in collaboration with the amazing dance, music, and art communities in Brooklyn and beyond.

Anna Lee Green (Maid, Sugar Plum Fairy)

Anna Lee is originally from West Monroe, Louisiana and began her advanced training with Ballet Academy of Texas under Director Lisa Slagle. There, she performed works by Fernando Bujones, Margot Sappington, Trinetta Singleton, Thom Clower and many others. Anna Lee subsequently toured various villages in Austria and Germany, performing for the communities with Young Tanzsommer. She continued her training at Texas Christian University (TCU) as a Nordan Young Artist Scholar, and earned a BFA in Ballet. Anna Lee's TCU performances include works by resident faculty Elizabeth Gillaspay and guest artists Michael Bearden and Toni Pimble. She also danced in Gerald Arpino's *Birthday Variations*, re-staged by Willy Shives, George Balanchine's *Valse-Fantaisie*, re-staged by Michele Gifford, *Giselle*, re-staged by Jessica Zeller, and *Dark Elegies*, re-staged by Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner. Anna Lee was a company member with Ballet San Antonio from 2017 to 2019.

Gregory Kollarus (Toy Soldier, Russian Lead)

Gregory is an alumnus of the Long Island High School for the Arts and the Martha Graham Teen Program. Gregory also attended the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City and the Summer Intensives at Joffrey Midwest. He graduated from The William Esper Studio, where he studied the acting technique of Sanford Meisner. In addition to ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater, Gregory also performs with independent choreographers, and is one of the founders of Logos Dance Collective. He choreographed *Allegory Of The Cave/Echolocation/Flutter* with Barbra Montero with original music by Dmitri Tymoczka, and was one of the creators of *The Missing Shade Of You*. He has performed in theatrical productions of *West Side Story*, *Carrie The Musical*, and *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*. He also appeared in performances *XYZ NYC* at The Tank, performing *Ghost In The Underground* and *Static/Sensation*. Gregory has worked on *Once In A Lifetime* with ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater, which they performed at Dixon place and City Center APAP. He teaches at ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater and The Studio for the Performing Arts in Long Island, alongside his mentor Jamie Chandler-Torns. This is Gregory's third season with ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater.

Liz McKendry (Mrs. Silberhaus, Snow Queen, Mother Ginger)

Liz hails from Buffalo, New York and celebrates her sixth year in the ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater production of *The Nutcracker*. Liz got her start performing in Donn Arden's *Jubilee!* before landing a spot in the Broadway Musical *The Producers*. Off-Broadway credits include *Sleep No More* at the McKittrick Hotel, *Comedy of Errors*, *Othello* at The Shakespeare Lab NYC. Regional credits include *The Red Dress* at The New Phoenix Theatre, *Mamma Mia!* at The Gateway, *The Producers* at Paper Mill Playhouse, *A Funny Thing...Forum* at Paper Mill Playhouse, and *Boeing Boeing* at Cape May Stage. She also performed in the film, *The Producers*. She would like to express her gratitude to ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater and Luigi's Jazz Centre.

Kana Takahashi (Party Mom, Rat, Arabian Dance)

Kana is originally from Saitama, Japan and is a New York City-based dancer and actor. She received her certificate of dance from the Ailey School and holds a single sword stage combat certification by SAFD. Her recent acting credits include Liat in *South Pacific* at MAC and West Virginia Public Theatre, *Miss Saigon*, which was voted BroadwayWorld Denver's best dramatic

musical 2014, *Oklahoma!*, *Hair*, *Pippin*, *Unto These Hills*, *Six Strings Sonics*, and *The Magic Flute*. As a dancer, Takahashi has performed for the John Cage Centennial Festival, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Ailey Citigroup Theater, MuSE, and Azul Dance Theatre, among others. Takahashi has been a member of ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater since 2011.

ABOUT ALDEN MOVES DANCE THEATER

ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater is dedicated to making movement dance and making dance move, on stage and in the classroom. Comprised of a professional division, a children's division, and a recreational division for teens and adults, ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater is a repertory company dedicated to supporting artists whose work is steeped in tradition and infused with contemporary perspective. ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater seeks to inspire new generations of artists and audiences by offering classes in which the whole family can discover—or revisit—their joy of movement, music, and dancing. www.aldenmovesbk.com

PROGRAM SPONSOR

ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater's *The Nutcracker* is supported by Matt Carr Photography.

PRESS INFORMATION

For press passes, please contact info@aldenmovesbk.com.

LISTING INFORMATION

What: ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater presents *The Nutcracker*

When: Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 12:00PM & 5:00PM | Run Time: 2 hours

Where: East Midwood Jewish Center: 1625 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230

Tickets: aldenmovesbk.com/nutcracker | \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

For kids age 2+: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, space permitting.

GETTING THERE

East Midwood Jewish Center | 1625 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230

By Bus

B68 to Coney Island Avenue and Avenue K

By Subway

Q Train to Avenue J

By Car

Ocean Avenue between Avenue K and Avenue L | Street Parking

East Midwood Jewish Center is wheelchair accessible.

PRESS CONTACT

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ALDEN MOVES Dance Theater's studio is located at 1203 Church Ave | Brooklyn, NY 11218

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Class & Company Information Available at aldenmovesbk.com