

**It's Snowing on Congress!**  
**Ballet Austin presents 45th Annual Production of *The Nutcracker***  
**at the Historic Paramount Theatre:**  
**A Turn of the Century Classic in Venue from the Same Era**

**WHO:** Ballet Austin  
Choreography by Stephen Mills, Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**WHAT:** Ballet Austin's 45th Annual Production of *The Nutcracker*

**WHERE:** Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress Ave., 512-472-5470

**WHEN:** December 1-23 at 7:30 pm or 2 pm  
Performance times vary depending on the day

**TICKETS:** \$17.50 - \$65 at 1.866.4.GETTIX, balletaustin.org, or at Ballet Austin's new Butler Dance Education Center at W. Third and San Antonio Streets, 10 am - 6 pm weekdays.

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** - It's snowing on Congress this December, as Ballet Austin brings the company's 45th Anniversary presentation of *The Nutcracker* to Austin's legendary Paramount Theatre.

"Ballet Austin was the first professional ballet company to produce *The Nutcracker* in Texas," said Cookie Ruiz, Executive Director of the organization, "and for our special 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of bringing this show to Central Texas, we couldn't be more excited to present this annual holiday tradition at the Paramount Theatre. Downtown Austin is beautiful during this time of year with all of the lights and décor. Producing *The Nutcracker* on Congress Avenue will give thousands of families a rare treat. The theater itself joins our beautiful sets and costumes to become part of the image of a children's snow globe "

Ballet Austin's artistic director, Stephen Mills, leads the company through the magical adventures of Clara's wintertime dream via a captivating performance sure to inspire the child in each audience member. This year, to commemorate an historic year in an historic Austin venue, the company will bring a little extra winter wonder by bringing *The Land of Snow* to audiences in a surprise addition to the program.

This year's production of *The Nutcracker* boasts a cast of almost 200, including 160 Ballet Austin Academy students, ages eight and older, who were selected to dance the roles of Clara, Fritz, Party Children, Mice, Angels, Soldiers, Bon-Bons and as Chinese dancers.

**Paramount Theatre**

In 1915, the Paramount Theatre, then called the Majestic Theatre, opened its doors to the public in what would become a legacy of theatrical service to Austin and its surrounding communities. The then Majestic Theatre was originally conceived as a stage for vaudeville, entertaining audiences with the likes of performers such as Harry Houdini. In the years following, the theatre saw the demise of vaudeville and the rise of silent, and later, talking pictures. By the 1950s, the Paramount was almost exclusively used as a movie house, but by 1970, the venue had fallen into disrepair. In 1975, The Paramount held it's first live performance in years, and the decades following were nothing short of prosperous, as the theatre hosted Hollywood movie premiers and popular musical and performing arts acts, as well as producing its own shows.

## **Parking**

Parking for the event is available on the streets (meters stop at 5:30 pm) and secure, covered parking will be available for evening shows for \$6 at the One American Center parking garage, conveniently located one block from the theatre at 600 Congress.

## **About Ballet Austin**

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin is a progressive company for a contemporary world—welcoming audiences near and far to participate in its “classically innovative” vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, and the nation's fourth largest classical ballet academy, the company is poised for an even greater future. As choreographed by artistic director Stephen Mills from the new Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin actively engages the community, dancers, and audiences alike, The New York Times proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

## **New Contact Information**

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**WEB:** <http://www.balletaustin.org>

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