



**Mother Ginger Returns in Long Center Debut!**  
**Ballet Austin's 46th Annual Production of *The Nutcracker***  
**for the First Time at The Long Center**

- WHO:** Ballet Austin  
Choreography by Stephen Mills, Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky,  
Musical Accompaniment by The Austin Symphony Orchestra
- WHAT:** Ballet Austin's 46th Annual Production of *The Nutcracker*
- WHERE:** The Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside Drive, 512.457.5100
- WHEN:** December 6 – 23 at 7:30 pm or 2 pm (performance times vary depending on the day)
- TICKETS:** \$15 - \$71 at 512.476.2163, [balletaustin.org](http://balletaustin.org) or at Ballet Austin's Box Office at 501 W. 3rd Street, 10 am – 6 pm weekdays and 10 am – 2 pm Saturday.
- NEW:** You choose your seat! Ballet Austin's new online ticketing system is the only Austin system that allows you to select your own seat!

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** – This year, the music is sweeter than sugarplums, the dancers lighter than air, and the snowflakes sparkle more brightly than ever as Ballet Austin brings the company's 46th Annual Production of *The Nutcracker* to the new Long Center for the Performing Arts for the first time.

Ballet Austin, led by Artistic Director Stephen Mills, takes the audience on an enchanted wintertime adventure through the lands of snow and sweets in this timeless fairy-tale classic. As the producer of the longest running production of *The Nutcracker* in Texas and a Founding Resident Company of Austin's leading performing arts center, Ballet Austin brings this cherished holiday tradition home to the Long Center. The facility's state-of-the-art capabilities, unobstructed sight lines, and acoustic clarity combine with Ballet Austin's command performances to produce a dynamic marriage between artist and venue. This December, *The Nutcracker* creates a world-class holiday experience for the entire family.

"Producing *The Nutcracker* at the Long Center is a moment we have been anticipating for a long time," says Stephen Mills. "In the Long Center, we have a performance home that reflects our commitment to innovation in the arts and our high standard of production value and professionalism. The Long Center is the premier venue to present *The Nutcracker* this year – and for years to come."

A unique Austin feature of this holiday tradition returns this year after a one-year hiatus during the completion of The Long Center. Ballet Austin brings back the beloved role of Mother Ginger with a different local and/or national "celebrity" starring in the role for each performance.

Making guest performances as Mother Ginger, this year's production will feature:

- December 6, 7:30 pm – Marc Ott, Austin City Manager
- December 7, 2:00 pm – Col. Curtis Potts, Fort Hood
- December 12, 7:30 pm – Tyler Sieswerda, Anchor, KVUE
- December 13, 7:30 pm – E.D. Hill, Reporter, Fox News
- December 14, 2:00 pm – Kim Brackin, Swim Coach, University of Texas at Austin
- December 18, 7:30 pm – Nav Sooch, Founder, Silicon Labs

# BALLET *Austin*

December 19, 7:30 pm – Stephen Moser, Fashion Editor, *Austin Chronicle*

December 20, 2:00 pm – Paul Carrozza, Founder, RunTex

7:30 pm – Bill Powers, President, University of Texas at Austin

December 21, 2:00 pm – Joe Long, Philanthropist

December 22, 7:30 pm – Stephen Michael Kerr, Daytime DJ, *Majic 95.5*

December 23, 7:30 pm – Michael Barnes, Writer, *Austin American-Statesman*

Each of these local personalities will don the character's traditional candy-studded headpiece and climb atop a platform into an eight-foot satin skirt, from which the 14 children cast as Bon-Bons will spill out to dance. This year's cast of Mother Gingers will join other Texas luminaries who have appeared in the beloved comical role of Mother Ginger in years past such as Michael Dell, Lance Armstrong, Governor Ann Richards, Kinky Friedman, John Paul DeJoria, and Mayor Will Wynn.

This year's production of *The Nutcracker* features a cast of nearly 200 dancers, including 165 Ballet Austin Academy students, ages eight and older, who were selected from an audition to dance the roles of Clara, Fritz, Party Children, Mice, Angels, Soldiers, Bon-Bons, and Chinese dancers.

## ABOUT BALLET AUSTIN

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes 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 one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their new home at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage 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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**IMAGES:** <http://media.wyattbrand.com> for print-ready, password-free images

**MEDIA:** For interviews, details Ashley St. Clair at [ashley@wyattbrand.com](mailto:ashley@wyattbrand.com) and (512) 299.6952

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

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