

# 'The Nutcracker' goes virtual

Little Ballet Theatre carries on tradition with a pandemic twist

BY ZOË BUCHLI

After a brief hiatus, the Little Ballet Theatre is back with its 46th production of "The Nutcracker."

This year's rendition will look a little different than previous performances — it will be an all-virtual event, pre-recorded on video. The ballet will be recorded in segments, edited and uploaded onto Broadway On Demand where guests can view it at their leisure with the purchase of a ticket.

According to artistic director Jeanne Peterson, this year's version will look different in some ways due to the coronavirus pandemic. Primarily, instead of a full-length, traditional version, the 2021 performance will take more of an excerpt-style approach.

"(The dancers) are just thrilled to be doing it again," Peterson said. "There's more focus than ever before because they just want to do it so badly. Everybody was lost last year without it."

## Stream 'The Nutcracker'

Available for viewing Friday through Dec. 25

Ticket information is available only at 503-861-1971

DVD purchase information available at [maddoxdancers.com](http://maddoxdancers.com)

Rehearsals started in early October, and dancers practiced every Saturday for about seven hours. Dancers for a snow scene and "Waltz of the Flowers" practiced during the week as well, spending about 15 to 20 hours in rehearsals each week.

Peterson explained that the cast size has been reduced to allow for social distancing behind the scenes. Normally, 35 to 40 dancers were a part of the party scene, but only 28 performers will appear in that portion of the show this year.

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Akiko Miller

Dancers play the roles of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince in the Little Ballet Theater's production of 'The Nutcracker.'



Akiko Miller

Dancer Maddie Jo Dielman will play the role of puppet in one scene of 'The Nutcracker.'

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