

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **For Artistry and Affordability, EBT's *Nutcracker* Can't Be Beat**

Bellevue, WA – Eastsiders no longer need to cross the bridge to find enchantment. This holiday season, the mystery and magic of Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet is closer than ever. Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) is proud to present *The Nutcracker* on December 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Northshore Performing Arts Center (NPAC) in Bothell. All performances will feature the Rainier Symphony Orchestra with David Waltman conducting.

Now in its fifth season, EBT brings E.T.A. Hoffman's timeless tale to life with live music, lavish costumes, sumptuous sets and exquisite choreography. Artistic director Viktoria Titova previously traveled around the world as a ballerina with the Bolshoi Theatre Grigorovich Company. EBT's *Nutcracker* draws on this rich Russian classical tradition.

Over 175 students from Emerald Ballet Academy will dance alongside regional professionals and four international guest artists. The first weekend, Russian-born Tatiana Liabina will appear as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Ms. Liabina started her career with the Grigorovich Ballet of Russia, then danced with the Sarasota Ballet of Florida. Her Cavalier will be Alexander Loxton, formerly of the Dutch National Ballet and a finalist for Young British Dancer of the Year. The second weekend, Ballet West's Stephen King and Whitney Huell (who was singled out as one of the "Top 25 to Watch" in the January 2011 issue of *Dance Magazine*) will perform.

This stellar line-up is not the only thing audiences will be excited about. EBT's *Nutcracker* is affordable and accessible, making it perfect for families and a great introduction to live theatre. The four matinee performances are ideal for children to attend. Tickets are reasonably priced: \$20 for youth, \$30 for seniors, and \$35 for adults. Little ones won't need to squirm to see, as every seat in the intimate NPAC theatre provides excellent views of the stage. Parking is ample, close and free.

So support your local arts and enjoy the many pleasures of this professional production. For young and old alike, EBT's *Nutcracker* is sure to be a highlight of the holiday season.

Tickets are available at [www.npacf.org](http://www.npacf.org).

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Emerald Ballet Theatre is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to advancing the art of ballet through education, performance, community outreach, and collaboration with other arts organizations. For more information, visit [www.emeraldballet.org](http://www.emeraldballet.org).