



**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact: 917-373-7577**

**WHO:** Berks Ballet Theatre

**WHAT:** Presenting “The Nutcracker”

**WHEN:** Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. & Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.

**WHY:** Giving Back to Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Berks Ballet Theatre Refreshes “The Nutcracker,” Celebrates 40 Years**

*Reading’s Favorite Holiday Tradition Revamps and Gives Back with its Return December 19 to Scottish Rite Cathedral*

**Reading, PA (November 25, 2015)**—[Berks Ballet Theatre](#) is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as it continues excellence in dance training, furthering arts and culture in the greater Berks County area, and this year, giving back to community it calls home. The ballet dance company is kicking off the holiday season stronger than ever with this year’s production of *The Nutcracker*.

The audience is taken on a magical journey to the land of sweets through the eyes of Clara—the young lead dancer—played by three rotating company members. It’s an unforgettable story of a girl, a gift and a dream brought to life through fanciful sets, costumes and unequivocal talent of the company dancers; two of which are setting records in the company’s production.

For the first time in 25 years, the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy is danced by two deserving company members ages 16 and 18, respectively; a testament to the increased skill level of students. In previous years, the demanding role has been filled with guest professional dancers.

Berks Ballet theatre’s version of this family show weaves together the tradition of the original story with refreshed choreography set by Ballet Master, Nathan Bland and Artistic Director, Kelly Barber.

This year, the holiday classic is bringing even more to the stage—new costumes, sets and choreography—and to help share the joy of the season, children from the [Olivet Boys and Girls Club of America](#) are invited to attend free of charge.

And that’s not all, to gear up for the three-show run, company members will make several appearances in the Greater Berks County community including the [Exeter Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) on December 7, [West Reading Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) on December 4, [Reading Holiday Parade](#) on November 21, and [Storytime](#) at the Barnes and Noble in Wyomissing on November 28.



Help Berks Ballet Theatre celebrate its 40 years of enriching the community with the art of dance, while giving back to the community.

**Performances at the Scottish Rite Cathedral run:**

- Saturday, December 19 at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m.

*Tickets are available online at [www.BerksBalletTheatre.com/tickets](http://www.BerksBalletTheatre.com/tickets), and in person at the door.*

**About Berks Ballet Theater Conservatory of Dance**

For 50 years, Berks Ballet Theatre Conservatory of Dance has served as the greater Berks County area’s premier pre-professional ballet conservatory. Their state-of-the-art facility is located within the GoggleWorks building in Reading Pa., where dancers begin their training at age 3. Many Berks Ballet Theatre Conservatory-trained dancers have integrated other learning endeavors and various prestigious opportunities with companies like American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet and others. The conservatory strengthens dancers’ technique and confidence, competing each year in world-renowned competitions like Youth American Grand Prix. Students are afforded the opportunity to participate in company productions like “The Nutcracker” and other ballets throughout the year.

Enrollment period for the Winter Semester is December 21, 2015 – January 31, 2016.

**About Berks Ballet Theatre Company**

Berks Ballet Theatre is Celebrating its 40th season and continues to bring the highest quality performances to Berks County audiences. Under the artistic direction of Kelly Barber and Nathan Bland who serves as Ballet Master & Resident Choreographer, conservatory students have the opportunity to perform with a professional company with the same caliber of the other great companies in the USA.

Berks Ballet Theatre is a non-profit 501(c)3 pre-professional ballet company whose primary purpose is to provide serious dancers the best possible forum of training and performance in classical and contemporary dance in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Founded by Carol Ennis in 1976, the company began with a simple philosophy: “given the training and opportunity, the ‘child-next-door’ can grow up to be anything they want, including a dancer in any major professional ballet company.”

Berks Ballet Theatre has performed and continues to perform for many local organizations including: Reading Symphony Orchestra, Berks Arts Council, BCTV, Reading Public Museum and the Exeter Festival of Lights. The company also performs The Nutcracker annually. Since 1991 BBT has been a member of Regional Dance America/Northeast and has performed all over the Northeastern USA & Canada.

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Berks Ballet Theatre Company's sponsors for *The Nutcracker* include: St. Joseph's Medical Center, Dean Marketing, and Moyer Insurance & Financial.

For information about *The Nutcracker* including dance training information, other events, blogs and images visit [www.BerksBalletTheatre.com](http://www.BerksBalletTheatre.com)