



Media Contact:

Samantha Franco
Zakarin Martinez Public Relations
samantha@zm-pr.com 305.372.2502

****Media Alert****

**KIDS INVITED TO AUDITION FOR MIAMI CITY BALLET'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR
GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER® AT ARTIS-NAPLES**

Performances on December 3-4, 2016. Tickets On Sale Now.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – (August 1, 2016) – On **Sunday, September 11**, Miami City Ballet will hold auditions at **Artis-Naples** for boys and girls in Naples and the surrounding area who want to participate in the South Florida company's annual production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*®.

Each year MCB provides local kids with previous ballet training ages 8 and up with the chance to portray several roles in the production, including party children, angels, polichinelles and even the lead role of Marie. Known for its magnificent scenery and Tchaikovsky's magical music, the annual production is a highly anticipated staple in Miami City Ballet's repertoire. Selected children will participate in rehearsals where they will learn and practice the ballet's choreography and then take the stage with MCB dancers for performances at Artis-Naples.

One of the only companies in the country to perform *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*®, Miami City Ballet's production boasts a cast of over 100, with many roles performed by children. The perfect holiday treat for the entire family, performances will take place at **Artis-Naples** on **December 3-4, 2016**. Tickets begin at just \$44, and are available at artisnaples.org, or by calling the Box Office at 239-597-1900 or 800-597-1900 toll-free.

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When & Where

Sunday, September 11

Location: Artis-Naples, Frances Pew Hayes Hall, 5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Naples, FL 34108

Contacts: Robin Gray at 239-404-0515 or naplesnutcracker@gmail.com

Christophe Maraval at 239.249.0306 or christophepm@gmail.com

- Registration (Height up to 4'4) 11:30 am-12 pm / Audition Class 12-1 pm
- Registration (Height 4'5 to 4'10) 1-1:30 pm / Audition Class 1:30-3:30 pm
- Registration (Height 4'10-5'1) 3:30-4 pm / Audition Class 4-4:45 pm

Details: Kids auditioning must bring a full body 4x6" picture, preferably in tendu á la seconde or in échappé, in dance attire and with a solid background.

Children selected to perform will participate in daily rehearsals Sept. 17-18 and Sept. 24-25, followed by weekly rehearsals on Sundays beginning October 2 at Naples Academy of Ballet (1005 5th Ave. North, Naples, FL 34102), leading up to the performance.

Performances at Artis-Naples:

Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2 & 8 pm

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 pm

About Miami City Ballet:

Miami City Ballet recently celebrated its 30th anniversary season, earning critical acclaim from The New York Times: "Bold, light, immediate, intensely musical, the dancing of Miami City Ballet flies straight to the heart." Led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez since 2012, MCB was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. The Company has 51 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets. MCB performs for nearly 100,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School's renowned faculty, challenging syllabus and affiliation with Miami City Ballet make it a place where all students – from children to adults – can receive comprehensive dance training. The School trains approximately 400 students, ages 3-18, in its year-round program, and 400 during its summer programs, granting nearly \$500,000 in scholarships annually. More than 500 adults participate in a vibrant community division.

Miami City Ballet is headquartered in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica.

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Miami City Ballet is a registered trademark of Miami City Ballet, Inc.