

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lake Erie Ballet 2009 Nutcracker – Dec. 18, 19 & 20 at the Warner Theater



This year marks the **Lake Erie Ballet's 51st annual Nutcracker** and will not only feature performers **Michele Gifford and Matthew Prescott from the New York City Ballet the Joffrey Ballet** respectively, but also performances from **Erie's SoMar Dance Works** Directors, Mark and Solveig Santillano and **Erie Bayfront Dance Director, Nate Johnson**. Special guest choreographer **Dafna Rathouse Baier of Dafmark Dance Theatre** will also be a part of this year's event with her contribution of the Spanish (Coffee) Divertissement. She has enlisted **Julio Quezada of Mambo** to add some flamenco flare as well.

With over one hundred and ten performers, this year the Lake Erie Ballet will host many contributing performers and choreographers from the Erie dance community and **Mercyhurst College Dance Department** for the 2009 Nutcracker. **Contributing choreographers include LEBs own School Director, Kirsten**

Carpenter; Artist in Residence, Christina Maria Adelhardt; former LEB administrator and performer, Matthew Carter; and Mercyhurst Dance faculty Michael Gleason and Noelle C. Partusch. Several cameo appearances by local celebrities will also be made through out the run of the production. **On Saturday evening, Dec. 19th the Lake Erie Ballet Orchestra will perform under the direction of Bruce Morton Wright**. And once again, the Lake Erie Ballet also has the great fortune to have singers from **the Children's Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral** perform the finale of Act I.

Tickets for the Saturday, Dec. 19th 7:00 pm - *with orchestra* - and the Sunday, Dec. 20th 2:30 pm performances of Lake Erie Ballet 2009 Nutcracker are available through the Erie Civic Center Box office, 452-4857 or via the internet at www.ticketmaster.com.

Other events surrounding this year's Nutcracker event include the Special Performance Series, Friday night's "Meet the Performers" and the Sunday afternoon Sugar Plum Fairy Party. Information and tickets for these events are available on the Lake Erie Ballet website: www.lakeerieballet.org.

Special Performance Series, please visit www.lakeerieballet.org/AIE or call 871-4356 x6 for tickets.

- Friday, Dec. 18th 10:00 am Children's Matinee
- Friday, Dec. 18th 7:30 pm Open Dress / Special Performance – *with orchestra*
 - "Meet the Performers" 10:00-10:30 pm, meet Michele Gifford of NYCB and Matthew Prescott of the Joffrey Ballet.
- Saturday, Dec. 19th 1:00 pm Open Dress / Special Performance – *with orchestra*

Sugar Plum Fairy Party, please visit www.lakeerieballet.org/events or call 871-4356 x6 for tickets.

- Sunday, Dec. 20th 12:00-1:30 pm, First Niagra Bank Community Room

Bring your camera and celebrate the magic of the season with the stars of the Nutcracker! Play games, win prizes and take a chance to win presenting the Sugar Plum Fairy with her Sunday Performance Bouquet!

Picture by: Rick Klein