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County Ballet offers 'Nutcracker' — sweet

International dance star Aaron Smyth from Australia will join the Ventura County Ballet (VCB) in the role of Nutcracker Prince in its 17th annual production of "The Nutcracker" at Oxnard Performing Arts Center, Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Performances will be accompanied by the 52-piece Ventura College Symphony Orchestra.

This will be Smyth's fifth appearance with the company. VCB executive director Kathleen Noblin states, "We are thrilled to have Aaron back dancing with us for his fifth season. He is a wonderful role model. It is a joy to watch our pre-professionals dance with such a fine young man and to have him serve as mentor to so many of them."

"It is really fun to work on such a holiday classic like 'The Nutcracker' and to dance with pre-professionals that have big dreams to be amazing dancers," says Smyth.

In addition, there will be



Photo submitted

Professional dancer Aaron Smyth (right) and State Street Ballet's Kate Kadow will perform.

three days of performances at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., Dec. 5 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit www.venturacountyballet.com.

For tickets, call the VCB event line at 323-6620, or visit www.brownpapertickets.com.