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Community E



Professional dancer, Aaron Smyth rehearsing along-side VCB's young ballerinas. Picture credit Pamela Reinig.

The Nutcracker features local students

Ventura County Ballet Company (VCB), will deliver sugar plum star power this year in its sixteenth annual production of *The Nutcracker*. The community dance staple is known for showcasing working national and international professional dancers and choreographers with pre-professional dancers and musicians.

Returning for his fourth season as "The Prince," will be Australian Aaron Smyth, lead dancer of Joffrey Ballet Chicago. Smyth performs as a guest artist with many prominent dance companies around the world, mentoring and teaching up-and-coming stars the art of ballet. Returning for a second season and starring as "Dream Clara," will be professional dancer Kate Kadow. Together, along with many others, will help bring America's most beloved holiday fairytale to life, which exclusively features live music from Ventura College's 52-piece symphony orchestra.

"We're really thrilled to have Aaron and Kate come back and work with Ventura County Ballet," expresses Kathleen Noblin, Director of VCB. "We enjoy having them both perform with us, and also serve as a mentors to our young dancers. It's going to be a site to see when they bring *The Nutcracker* to life, and dance along-side these professional dancers in-the-making."

Performances on November 22-23 at Oxnard Performing Arts Center, followed by performances on December 13-14 at Ventura College Performing Arts Center. For more information, visit <http://www.venturacountyballet.com/Nutcracker.html>.