

NEOS DANCE THEATRE

A 1940's

NUTCRACKER



December 14-16, 2018

Stocker Arts Center,
1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria, Ohio

Season Sponsors

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PERFORMANCE SEASON

2018-19 Season Sponsors



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Heinz Poll Summer Dance August 10, Friday, 8:45 p.m.

Hardesty Park, Akron

Heinz Poll Summer Dance August 11, 8:45 p.m.

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A 1940's Nutcracker - Saturday, December 8 at 8 p.m.

Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, OH

Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m., Renaissance Theatre
Mansfield, OH

A 1940's Nutcracker - Friday, December 14 at 11 a.m.

Student Matinee, Stocker Arts Center, Hoke Theatre
Elyria, OH

Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m., Stocker Arts Center
Hoke Theatre, Elyria, OH

Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m., Stocker Arts Center
Hoke Theatre, Elyria, OH

Lose Your Marbles, Akron Civic Theatre, March 1, 2019 more details TBA
dance.r.evolution TBA

M.A.D.E.in Ashland, April 6, 2019

Ballet@the Brickyard August 3, 2019

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NEOS DANCE THEATRE

Company

Bobby Wesner, Artistic Director

Brooke Wesner, Co-Founder

Lighting Designer: Dennis Dugan Stage Manager: Christopher J. Ha

Video Supervisor: Jonathon Hunter

Director of Education and Outreach: DeMarcus Akeem Suggs

Graphic Design and Marketing advisor: Kathy Hilton

Administrative Assistant: Gwendolyn LeBar

Projection Design and animations by Andy Gardner, leapyearfilms.com

Dancers: Juliana Freude, Kassandra Lee, Kaleb Reilly, Matthew Roberts,
Carson Sandiford-Hoxie, Katherine Tackett, Anna Trumbo,
Brooke Wesner

Apprentice: Rebekah Mayfield, Alexandria (Ali) LeBay.

Guest Artists: Brandon Leffler and Alex Lytton

Board of Directors: Daniel Budke,

Doug Marrah, Holly Handman-Lopez, Mark Jenkins,
Edward Reading, Judy Shoaff-Reading, Cyndee Snider,
Ian Haberman, Robert Wesner

Advisory Board: Glenn Edgerton, Sylvia McNair,
Cynthia Newland, Jane Startzman, Michael Uthoff

A1940's Nutcracker Committee

Natalie Wesner-Goshinski, Laurie Fike, Kathy Hilton, Kara Mumea,
Lori Thompson

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Sponsorship available for our events, contact us for more
information - info@neosdancetheatre.org

Thank you to the theatre crew:

Jimmy Scroggy, Kirsten Williams, Josh Heidinger,
Gary Lenington and Julie Summy

NEOS DANCE THEATRE

Special Thanks to:

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Ed and Judy Reading, Kathy Hilton, Mike and Natalie
Goshinski, Jody and Dale Thomae,
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The Renaissance Theatre, Richland Source, Drs. Hering-
haus General Dentistry, Rick Kleshinski, Zak Mills,
Neil Sapienza, Dale Dong,

Neos Dance Theatre ~ Company History

With new office homes at The University of Akron and Oberlin's New Union Center for the Arts and a highly valued performance and education presence throughout Northeast Ohio — especially in Ashland, Cuyahoga, Hancock, Lorain, Richland and Summit counties — Neos has gained a reputation for artistic excellence, adventurous programming, and passionate community collaborations.

In March 2016, Neos received a significant and highly competitive arts challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. With Knight's support, Neos' dance.r.evolution will expand and engage audiences, by bringing together its classically trained choreographers with local urban dancers, graffiti artists and urban/pop musicians to learn from each other. After a yearlong creative process, the group will blend their different styles to produce a performance throughout the Akron community.

In July 2017, Neos received support from the Nord Family Foundation to expand into Lorain County with existing and new programs. The official opening of Neos Center for Dance commenced in September under the direction of DeMarcus Akeem Suggs. Additional awards have enabled Neos to expand education and performance programs into Ashland in March 2018.

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Neos Dance Theatre's 2018-19 season sponsors

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Thank you!

to the historical societies and individuals that
contributed photos for Neos to use in our

A 1940's Nutcracker Lorain County scrapbook pages

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Al and Barb Leiby - the Spirit of 76 Museum

Eric Greenly - Lorain County Historical Society

Kaitlyn Donaldson, George Siss III, Kay Lewandowski

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Admission

Adults: \$5.00
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Ages 6-12: \$2.00

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Lorain County History Center

Opened in May 2012, The Lorain County History Center is set in the recently restored 1857 Italianate Horace Starr mansion. Learn about the history and development of Lorain County through a series of themed galleries.

Admission

Adults: \$5.00
Ages 13-18: \$3.00
Ages 6-12: \$2.00

Self-Guided Tours

Tues-Fri 10 AM-4 PM

Other times by appt
Closed major holidays

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2018-2019 SEASON



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Visit mansfieldtickets.com for our full season lineup, including NEOS: A 1940s Nutcracker.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Richland County Foundation
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A 1940's NUTCRACKER



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A 1940's NUTCRACKER

SYNOPSIS: Neos Dance Theatre's A 1940's Nutcracker

ACT ONE:

It's Christmas Eve in Lorain, Ohio, in the 1940s. Marie is a wistful young girl of 13, and she lives with her mother, her younger twin sisters, and her younger brother Gus, while her father is off at war. Marie has a crush on her next-door neighbor Johnny, and they meet outside Marie's home, where she and her friend are playing and dancing. Everyone is excited about Christmas Eve and there is magic in the air as Marie's puppy love for her next-door neighbor blossoms. When Mother calls Marie inside to help get ready for the party, she sneaks Johnny into the house and Mother allows him to stay.

Party guests begin to arrive. Grandpa turns up the music on the old radio and everyone is dancing and enjoying the party. Marie's father walks through the door, shocking Marie's family and everyone runs to greet him. Father is overjoyed to see his family and friends and announces that he has brought gifts from his world travels to share with the children. In addition to his gifts, he has brought along a special guest: Jane Jacobs Badini, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League pitcher from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She signs autographs for the children and entertains them with all-star moves.

As the party leaves the living room to for dinner, Father gives Marie her special gift: a Nutcracker doll. Marie loves her gift and dances with her Nutcracker, so happy that her father was thinking of her while he was at war. Johnny interrupts Marie's dance and teases her, and as the two scuffle, the Nutcracker breaks. Marie is upset, but Johnny fixes the Nutcracker and all is well.

The guests return to the living room and continue dancing, and Grandma and Grandpa dance a special dance and then say goodnight to the party. The rest of the guests begin to leave and Mother and Father put Marie and her siblings to bed. Marie realizes she has left her Nutcracker on the davenport, and she returns to the living room, scoops up her doll, and falls asleep.

A strange dream begins. Small house mice become big and the living room grows to giant proportions. The Rat King appears to lead his army of mice to attack the Nutcracker. Suddenly, Marie's Father appears and transforms her Nutcracker into a life-sized doll. The Nutcracker calls an army of soldiers, and they battle with the mice and Rat King under the now giant Christmas tree. Just as the Nutcracker and

his army are about to win the battle, the Rat King stabs the Nutcracker, and as he falls to the floor, Marie takes off her slipper and strikes the Rat King on his head, killing him. As Marie grieves the death of her Nutcracker, she pledges her love to him and he comes back to life, magically transformed into a princely version of her next-door neighbor Johnny. They dance together lovingly as the room melts away, and Johnny leads Marie through the window to a magical snowy land. Dancing snowflakes greet the pair and send them on an enchanted journey throughout Ohio.

ACT TWO:

The curtain rises as Johnny takes Marie on a magical journey throughout the Lorain County area of the early 1940s. The glamorous department store ladies at Kline's offer Marie hats and jewelry, and she is thrilled by the motion pictures on the Palace Theatre's silver screen. Perry Fay Screw Machine Operators from Elyria, Ohio impress her with their contributions to the war effort. The newspaper boy from the Elyria Chronicle Telegram brings her news that the war is almost over, and the high-society women from the Woman's Club grace her with a concert.

The strong and faithful factory women give her a life-sized Shirley Temple doll from Akron, a city known for its toy manufacturing. Johnny and Marie join the locals at an area nightclub for dancing and photographs taken by the "Lightbulb Girls". Finally, local celebrities Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall greet them and dance.

Everyone who Marie and Johnny have met throughout their journey return and, in a flurry of magic, Marie is transported back home. When she awakens on the davenport with her Nutcracker doll beside her, she wonders.....was it all a dream? Or did she indeed take a magical journey throughout Lorain County?

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March Choral Madness

March 9th at 7:30pm
March 10th at 3:00pm

2018 – 19 SEASON

The Personal Muse: Music of the Cleveland Composers Guild & Women Composers

May 18th at 7:30pm
May 19th at 3:00pm

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A 1940's NUTCRACKER

Neos Dance Theatre's A 1940's Nutcracker with the

Neos Center for Dance Students and The University of Akron Dance Institute

Young Party Guests - Regina Wolf, Alicia Matheson, Isabella Soto,
Amaris Madding

Gus - Ella Wojciechowski

Gus's Friend Flynn - Flynn Yoho

Sisters - Madelyn Drost, Lyla Yoho

Sisters Friend - Emma Kucbel

Grandma - Brittany Drost

Grandpa - Bobby Wesner

Rosie the Riveter - Isabella Soto, Ella Wojciechowski, Regina Wolf,
Amaris Madding, Emma Kucbel, **Understudy:** Alicia Matheson

Soldiers - Juliet Ngure, EJ Thomas, Skyla Bautista, Lauren Kukucka,
Annaliese Rogers, Brooklyn Nagy, Suzanna "Suzy" Holmes, Brooke Justice,
Jasmine Bednarski, Mary Vavroch

Andrew Sisters - Alicia Matheson, Regina Wolf, Brittany Drost

Band - Skyla Bautista, Annaliese Rogers, Lauren Kukucka, Juliet Ngure,
Brooklyn Nagy, Suzanna "Suzy" Holmes, Hannah Vavroch, Brooke Justice

Mice - Zoey Gendics, Amelia Overstreet, Phoebe Barlow, Emma Kucbel,
Rachel Hormell, Madelyn Drost, Isabella Kobylarz, Ruby Schaeffer, Lyla Yoho,
Evangelia Baykal

Young Angel - Zoey Gendics, Amelia Overstreet, Phoebe Barlow, Rachel Hormell,
Hannah Vavroch, Isabella Kobylarz, Ruby Schaeffer, Lyla Yoho, Annaliese Rogers,
Clare Vavroch, Jasmine Bednarski

Older Angels - Regina Wolf, Amaris Madding, Isabella Soto, Brooke Justice,
Alicia Matheson, Brooklyn Nagy, Brittany Drost

Shirley Temple - Lydia Huff, Amelia Overstreet, Phoebe Barlow,
Matilda "Mattie" Thibodeau, Sophia Soto, Flynn Yoho, Noah Vavroch,
Rachael George, Madisyn Holland, Annabella Demyan, Riley Krichbaum,
Kaleb Broeckel, Evangelia Baykal

Extra Shirley Temple - Eleanor "Nori" Thibodeau

**The University of Akron's Dance Institute and *dance program
guest performers in Snow: Molly Bagatto, *Joni Allen, Abby Murray**

A 1940's NUTCRACKER

Cast continued

Neos Dance Theatre dancers

ACT ONE

Marie Hoffman - Cassandra Lee

Marie's Friend Helen - Katherine Tackett

Johnny (Marie's next door neighbor) - Matthew Roberts

Johnny's Friend Chuck - Kaleb Reilly

Mom, Dorothy (Dot) Hoffman - Anna Trumbo

Ruth - Juliana Freude

Grandpa - Robert Wesner

Mom's Friend Betty - Rebekah Mayfield

Aunt Gladys - Brooke Wesner

Injured Soldier, James - Brandon Leffler

Dad, Robert (Bob) Hoffman - Alec Lytton

Jane Bandini (Jake), baseball player - Ally Utz

Rat King - Kaleb Reilly

Nutcracker Soldier - Brandon Leffler

Snow Queen - Brooke Wesner

Snow Flakes - Juliana Freude, Katherine Tackett, Anna Trumbo,
Rebekah Mayfield with Dance Institute dancers Molly Bagatto,
Joni Allen, and Abby Murray

ACT TWO

Lauren Bacall - Brooke Wesner

Humphrey Bogart - Bobby Wesner

Department Store Ladies - Katherine Tackett and Rebekah Mayfield

Newspaper Delivery Boy - Matthew Roberts

Women's Club Committee Chair - Juliana Freude

Mae West - Anna Trumbo & Kaleb Reilly

Night Club Dancers - Cassandra Lee with Matthew Roberts, with
Katherine Tackett, Rebekah Mayfield, Kaleb Reilly, Anna Trumbo,
Brandon Leffler and Juliana Freude

Extra Night Club dancers in Finale: Molly Bagatto, Abby Murray and Joni Allen



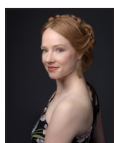
COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES



Robert Wesner: Neos Artistic Director, event planner, choreographer and is a busy father of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah and Arowyn.



Brooke Wesner: Brooke is a busy mother of four beautiful daughters, Genevieve, Ella, Mekah and Arowyn. When she isn't in the studio she enjoys frequenting their many activities. She can also be found on the lawn mower or digging herself out of a pile of laundry. She finds solace in reading her bible and red wine.



Anna Trumbo: An ideal Saturday afternoon must include, a cat in her lap, a full season of a period drama, and a buttered, toasted everything bagel.



Juliana Freude: Her favorite Akron eateries are El Rincon and Luigi's. She loves a good beer, Broadway shows, good books and motorcycles. During class you can find Juliana wearing her heating pad and enjoying a big cup of coffee.



Kassandra Lee: Cassandra's favorite cities she's visited so far include Denver and Madrid. She somehow owns multiple yellow sweaters and loves all things Harry Potter. Cassandra can often be found hanging with her dog, Puppies, and is always down for an adventure.

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COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES continued



Kaleb Reilly: Kaleb began dancing with Neos in the summer of 2017, and he loves being a part of this company's work. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife, experiencing nature, playing music, and eating!



Matthew Roberts: Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12)
Until God opens the next door,
I'll praise Him in the hallway

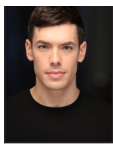


Katie Tackett: Katie's favorite TV shows are The Office, Gilmore Girls and Friends. One day she wants to go to culinary school and open a restaurant. Katie loves Neos because it is a holistic and nurturing environment to grow in as a dancer.



Rebekah Mayfield: Between rehearsals, you can find her studying and planning her wedding. She loves her mom's home cooked meals, movie night with her family, and spending time with her golden retriever.

Guest Artist

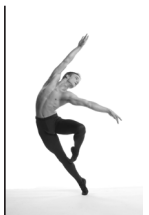


Brandon Leffler

Most recently seen in the Broadway company of Wicked. Brandon has also served as a Dance Instructor and Choreographer at Broadway Dance Center in New York City.

Broadway and Off Broadway credits include: On The Town (Tom, Gabey u/s), Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Dance Captain), Wicked (Lover), Trip of Love (George), Fanny, The Golden Apple and Anyone Can Whistle. Brandon has also traveled the USA with the national tours of Wicked (Lover), A Chorus Line (Larry, Paul u/s, Mark u/s, Mike u/s) and Cats (Tumblebrutus, Mistoffelees u/s)

T.V. credits include: 30 Rock, Saturday Night Live, Gossip Girl, the Tony Awards, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Alec Lytton is a special Lecturer in the University of Akron's School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration where he teaches ballet and modern dance. He also teaches at the University's Dance Institute and at 8 Count Dance in Green. From 2006 to 2013 he taught and performed in the San Francisco Bay area, with important roles as a company member of Liss Fain Dance, where he was a member of its international touring company. He was a principal guest artist for Menlowe Ballet, Peninsula Ballet, and he performed in Oakland Ballet's Nutcracker. He was an instructor at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, Alameda Ballet Academy, and the Academy of American Ballet in the Bay area. For four seasons he was a principal dancer for Company C Contemporary Ballet, and danced works of Twyla Tharp, David Parsons, Paul Taylor,

Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Patrick Corbin, and Charles Anderson. From 2003-2006, he was a soloist with the world renowned Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company at Lincoln Center in New York. He received the BFA in Dance from the Boston Conservatory, and did his early training at the High School of the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas.

It wasn't all sugar plums....

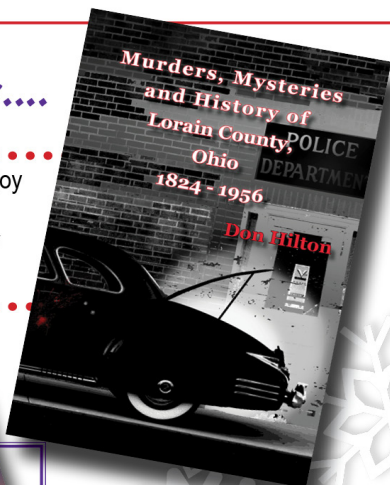
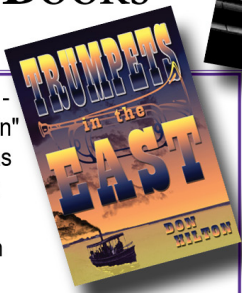
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Neos
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Robert Wagner, Artistic Director



NEOS DANCE THEATRE



Photo © Dale Dong. Dancers: Anna Tumbao and Brooke Westner



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Neos Dance Theatre is a 501-C-3 non-profit. With your support, Neos is able to bring a steady creation of new choreography, wide range of repertoire, and passion for community involvement.

Join Neos Friends Campaign

Each year gifts from individuals, local businesses, corporations and foundations provide operating support for Neos Dance Theatre. These donations help us continue Neos Dance Theatre public performances, educational programs, events, and collaborative efforts throughout the area — initiatives that add great and far-reaching value to life in our communities.

Thank you for your ticket purchase. Your presence at this performance is very important to us. If you like what we are doing please consider donating to the Friends campaign with your tax deductible contribution.

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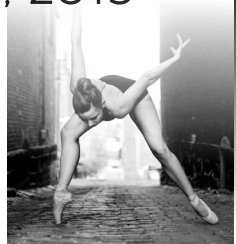
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Neos is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

SAVE THE DATE: August 3, 2019

Ballet  theBrickyard

TEMPLE COURT, MANSFIELD, OH





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