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MoCo Arts' Production of *The Nutcracker* Returns to The Redfern in December



Keene, NH – Get into the holiday spirit with MoCo Arts' magical production of the classic holiday tale, *The Nutcracker*. MoCo returns to the Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College with performances in the Main Theatre on Friday, December 14th at 7:00pm, Saturday, December 15th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, and Sunday, December 16th at 2:00pm. The show features MoCo Arts dance students in grades 2nd-12th, with special appearances by guest artists Yury Yanowsky and Kathleen Breen Combes of Boston Ballet. *The Nutcracker* is sponsored in part by Connection.

The story begins on a festive Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum's house with two young children, Fritz and Clara, preparing for a party. When the toymaker Drosselmeyer arrives he brings the children gifts. Clara receives the best present of all, a Nutcracker. That night when the clock strikes midnight, the Nutcracker comes alive and takes Clara on an unforgettable adventure. MoCo's production tells the story through several genres of dance including ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and modern, for a truly unique experience.

"I'm really excited to have the chance to be in *The Nutcracker*. I've always wanted to play Clara!" says Natasha Walter, a 5th grader from Westmoreland who will play the part of Clara in the show. "The most challenging part has definitely been learning the lifts. But it's been really fun so far."

MoCo Arts School of Dance offers students in grades 2nd-12th opportunities to explore many different styles of dance. Students ages 18 months through first grade are invited to participate in MoCo's Creative Dance program, a fun and engaging class designed to introduce students to dance through creative movement and play. Classes focus on the technical development of each student, and learning the fundamentals of each discipline. MoCo welcomes all students, beginner through advanced.

Tickets to *The Nutcracker* are \$18-\$24 and are available now at the Redfern Arts Center Box Office, online at <https://keene.universitytickets.com>, or by calling (603) 358-2168. For more information about *The Nutcracker* or about MoCo Arts, please visit www.moco.org.



MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or www.moco.org

Photo caption: *The Battle Scene from MoCo's 2016 Production of The Nutcracker. Photo by Steve Holmes Photography.*

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