



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[DOWNLOAD IMAGES HERE](ftp://ftp.cityoffederalway.com/Outbox/TCB)  
(<ftp://ftp.cityoffederalway.com/Outbox/TCB>)

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
Scott Abts  
Marketing Coordinator  
sabts@fwpaec.org  
253-835-7022

**SINGLE SHOW TICKETS FOR *THE NUTCRACKER* ON SALE NOW!  
TACOMA CITY BALLET DEBUTS “THE NUTCRACKER AND THE TALE OF THE  
HARD NUT” AT THE NEWLY OPENED PERFORMING ARTS & EVENT CENTER  
IN DOWNTOWN FEDERAL WAY**

**Related *Nutcracker* events include Sugar Plum Tea on December 17 & 23.**

**Federal Way, WA. September 14, 2017** - Tacoma City Ballet announces its 62<sup>nd</sup> year and inaugural performance of *The Nutcracker & The Tale of The Hard Nut* at the Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center. The Tacoma City Ballet has been widely praised for its presentation of the traditional Russian holiday classic. Choreographed by Artistic Director Erin M. Cerigioli, the Tchaikovsky’s score is performed live by the Tacoma Ballet Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Bernard Kwiram. This is sure to become an annual holiday tradition for the South Sound region.

This timeless holiday classic, first presented in 1892 in St. Petersburg, has entertained generations for over a century. *The Tale of The Hard Nut* is presented alongside the traditional Russian Classic *The Nutcracker* creating a glorious performance filled with dance, music, grand scenery and lavish costumes. Come experience the wonder and magic of this magnificent tale told through dance and music. This delightful tale promises to enchant your entire family this holiday season!

Six performances of *The Nutcracker and The Tale of The Hard Nut* will be presented between

-more-



December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. For a special treat, a “Sugar Plum Tea” can be added to the matinee performances on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> when characters from the production visit with guests while enjoying tea and pastries.

**Performance Dates and Times:**

- Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, December 16, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, December 17, 3 PM (*Sugar Plum Tea offered after the performance*)
- Thursday, December 21, 7:30 PM
- Friday, December 22, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, December 23, 3 PM (*Sugar Plum Tea offered after the performance*)

**Ticket Information:**

Single admission tickets for the *The Nutcracker & The Tale of The Hard Nut* and the “Sugar Plum Tea” tickets for all performances are available at [www.fwpaec.org](http://www.fwpaec.org), by calling 253-835-7010 or at the Performing Arts and Event Center Patrons Services Office located at 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way South, Federal Way, WA 98003. Patrons Services hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 6 PM. Tickets range in price from \$34 to \$104.

**About Artistic Director Erin M. Cerigioli:**

**Miss Erin Cerigioli** serves as the Executive/Artistic Director of Tacoma City Ballet, and the Director of Tacoma City Ballet School. She began her primary study of classical ballet under Miss Archalee Correll, and continued her advance study under the tutelage of stellar teachers Harold Christensen, Lew Christensen, Willam Christensen, Benjamin Harkarvy, Robert Joffrey, Janet Reed, Maria Tallchief, and Violette Verdy. After a short professional career as a dancer, Miss Cerigioli chose to teach classical ballet, and studied the syllabi of the Danish, English, French, Italian, and Russian Schools of Ballet, earning her certifications. In 1984, Miss Cerigioli

-more-

began teaching classical ballet at the Reno Civic Ballet School. In 1987, she accepted a position on the Faculty of The Jan Collum's School of Classical Ballet at the request of Miss Jan Collum. In 1990, after four years of teaching in the School and serving the Company as Ballet Mistress and Assistant Artistic Director, Miss Jan Collum appointed Miss Ceragioli as Co-Artistic Director of BALLEACOMA. In 1995, BALLEACOMA was re-christened Tacoma City Ballet, and Miss Jan Collum assumed the title of Artistic Director Emeritus formally passing her legacy to Miss Ceragioli. Forging a reputation not only as a master teacher, but also as a choreographer, Miss Ceragioli has staged many full-length ballets in the classical repertoire including Cinderella, Les Sylphides, Pas de Quatre, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, and The Sleeping Beauty, as well as choreographing many original ballets for Regional Dance America/Pacific Festivals that were chosen for Gala Performances and received the highest honors. Miss Ceragioli continues to produce new choreography recently adding a full-length Pinocchio The Ballet to the list of her own original ballets.

### **About Tacoma City Ballet:**

In 1955, Miss Jan Collum founded The Jan Collum School of Classical Ballet to impart excellent classical ballet instruction, and The Concert Ballet Group of Tacoma to offer dancers, who achieved a certain level of classical technique, artistry, and professionalism, the opportunity to perform in the specialized atmosphere of a professional theater with an orchestra. The Concert Ballet Group of Tacoma began with six dancers that soon blossomed into thirty.

In 1965, The Concert Ballet Group of Tacoma was renamed BALLEACOMA in order to be established as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation. For the next thirty years BALLEACOMA, under the Artistic Direction of Miss Jan Collum, forged a local, regional, and national reputation for excellence in classical ballet instruction and performance. By 1983, BALLEACOMA began performing The Nutcracker in the newly renovated Pantages Theater accompanied by the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Edward Sefarian.

-more-



For the third time in 1995, BALLETTACOMA was re-christened Tacoma City Ballet combining both the School and the Company under a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation. Since 1983, both the Ballet School and Company have been housed in The Merlino Art Center located at 6th and Fawcett in downtown Tacoma. The Jan Collum Ballroom, a spacious ballroom with high ceilings, beautiful Palladian windows, decorative plaster moldings gilded in 24 carat gold, and sprung hardwood floors, is one of the historic crown jewels of our city. Here in this beautiful facility that serves as Tacoma City Ballet School and The Jan Collum Ballroom Theater dancers study, rehearse, and perform the art of classical ballet in spacious old-world elegance.

Tacoma City Ballet has presented an annual performance season since 1955. The 2017-2018 Season features *The Haunted Theatre* in October at the Jan Collum Ballroom Theater, *The Nutcracker & The Tale of The Hard Nut* in December, and *Cinderella* in April at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center. Tacoma City Ballet celebrates its 62nd Performance Season proudly preserving and perpetuating a legacy filled with a rich history that has touched thousands with the beauty of the classical art of ballet.

### **Venue Information:**

The Performing Arts & Event Center opened August of 2017 as the South King County premier center for entertainment in the region. The 716-seat, two-tiered theatre hosts a variety of live performances, community events and education programs for all ages. This beautiful South King County location, just 20 minutes south of SeaTac, is perfect for business, educational, and private events. This is an ideal event venue for full-service trade shows, corporate trainings, conventions, events, meetings, and banquets.

###