



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2009

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Audience Is the Star in Dance-Along Nutcracker® With Music and Fun For All Ages

“Blazing Nutcrackers” Theme Sends Clara on Adventures Through the Wild West at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Dec 12 & 13

SAN FRANCISCO – The Dance-Along Nutcracker is the only place in town where the audience is the star as they dance along to Tchaikovsky’s enchanting Nutcracker Suite. Returning to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on December 12 and 13, the four performances promise fun for families and friends of all ages.

“The Dance-Along Nutcracker is to ballet what the Bay-to-Breakers is to marathon running,” said Doug Litwin, a clarinetist who has performed at every Dance-Along Nutcracker since the show began in 1985. “It’s a zany show where anyone can jump in at any talent level and the costumes are always fabulous!”

In addition to audience participation, the performances tell a story through song and dance. Each year has a different theme based around Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite characters, and this year “Blazing Nutcrackers” takes Clara and her Nutcracker on a rollicking romp through the Wild West. Performed by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, the Official Band of San Francisco, and conducted by Artistic Director Jadine Louie, the wackiest Nutcracker on earth stars Trauma Flintstone and features dance performances choreographed by Carolyn Carvajal.

SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM BAND, INC.

584 Castro Street, PMB 841, San Francisco, CA 94114 Phone 415.255.1355 www.sflgfb.org

“The Dance-Along Nutcracker remains one of the City’s most celebrated offbeat holiday events,” said Blair Barrett, Band President, “where anyone can strut their stuff and wallflowers have as much fun as dancers. So throw on your cowboy hats and tutus, and if you don’t have a tutu, we have a Tutu Rental Booth you can visit!”

More than a zany San Francisco holiday tradition, the Dance-Along Nutcracker is also the primary fundraiser for the Band, which performs at 15-20 concerts, parades and civic events throughout the year. The Dance-Along Nutcracker, the only performance for which the Band charges admission, supports all the Band’s year-long activities.

“It’s a treat to work with both Trauma and Carolyn again this year,” said Artistic Director Louie. “They both pride themselves on their professionalism as performers, but they’re also quick-witted and have a terrific spirit of playfulness. It’s always great fun to have them in the show.”

The Dance-Along Nutcracker has been featured in national media on “Good Morning, America,” “The Today Show,” HG-TV’s “Christmas Across America,” Planet Out, as well as in the Wall Street Journal, The Ladies’ Home Journal and Curve Magazine, and was described in an article by Dorothy Allison in Harper’s Bazaar.

WHEN:

Saturday December 12 at 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM (Holiday Gala).

Sunday December 13 at 11:00 AM 3:00 PM.

HOLIDAY GALA PERFORMANCE: Saturday December 12, 7:00 PM, featuring City Swing Big Band and holiday reception.

WHERE: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission Street at 3rd, San Francisco.

TICKETS: www.dancealongnutcracker.org, 415-978-2787

PRICES: General admission \$25; Children 12 and under and seniors \$16; Holiday Gala \$50. Group discounts of 20% for 10 tickets or more.

MORE INFO: www.dancealongnutcracker.org, 415-255-1355

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The Dance-Along Nutcracker is a registered trademark of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. www.dancealongnutcracker.org

The SFLGFB is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and is proud to be sponsored in part by Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the Jon Sims Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts, and Betty’s List. www.sflgfb.org

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