



PRESS RELEASE  
Friday, December 8, 2023  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROFESSIONAL DANCERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME  
PREMIERE THE EXTRAORDINARY NUTCRACKER TODAY IN CAMBRIDGE**

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**The United Dance Company kicks off their production of *The Extraordinary Nutcracker* today at the Cambridge Arts Center Theatre, featuring professional dancers with Down syndrome alongside other classical ballet artists in a family friendly retelling of this holiday classic.**

Bringing inclusion to the forefront of this beloved holiday tradition, this engaging prequel of the well-known holiday classic follows Clara's grandmother in her youth as she embarks on an epic adventure that brings her to discover the Nutcracker.

The lavish production boasts a cast of accomplished dancers of different abilities who put a unique spin on this beloved family classic. Choreographed by United Dance Company resident choreographer, Gianni Di Marco, with music by P.I. Tchaikovsky and newly commissioned music by Fraser Campbell, this unique and narrated production is specifically designed with families in mind.

***"I dance for the people who are like me and often alone, you are seen, you are loved."***

-Casey O'Donnell, United Dance Company dancer with Down syndrome.

***"When I dance I feel happy and joyous, that is the feeling I want to share with the audience."***

-Hannah Kendrick, United Dance Company dancer with Down syndrome.

***"This is a production for all to love, moving the needle towards a more inclusive art scene."***

- Gianni Di Marco, choreographer

What sets the Extraordinary Nutcracker apart is United Dance's commitment to inclusion and family audiences. The ballet has been designed for an audience of all ages, and is therefore narrated, shortened to 1h15 (with intermission) and focuses on engaging storytelling and exceptional dancing. With their productions United Dance brings much needed representation to artists with a disability, showcasing their exceptional artistic qualities.

From December 8 through 10, 2023, audiences get to see the full production at the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge.

**THE EXTRAORDINARY NUTCRACKER**

December 8 (7pm), 9 (1:30pm), and 10 (1:30pm)

Multicultural Arts Center Cambridge

Tickets (\$15-\$40), Pay what you Wish tickets available & more information at [uniteddance.org](https://uniteddance.org)

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## ABOUT

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### **ABOUT UNITED DANCE**

Based in Boston, United Dance has quickly established itself as a leader in specialized dance and art education for youth and young adults with Down syndrome in Europe, North America, and Asia. United Dance offers high-quality dance courses for individuals with Down syndrome on an international level to help ensure all individuals can enjoy exceptional dance classes in a safe and accessible environment.

United Dance was founded by professional dancer Boris Richir in 2018 and has established partnerships with national and international Down syndrome organizations, healthcare institutions and art institutions such as the Dutch National Opera and Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet School.

#### About United Dance Company

In championing inclusion and working with the Down syndrome population, founder and director Boris Richir and choreographer Gianni Di Marco saw the need to create a performing company that reflected United Dance's mission, representing artists of diverse abilities united in the pursuit of excellence in dance.

### **ABOUT UNITED DANCE COMPANY**

Founded in June 2022, the United Dance Company brings together professional dancers, choreographers, and students from United Dance's course programming.

Like its parent organization, United Dance Company is a company like no other and shares the core values of inclusion, respect, and excellence.

The company is based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA where it holds several performances per season.

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### **PRESS PAGE & IMAGES**

[uniteddance.org/press](https://uniteddance.org/press)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W-B1dnzOw696yfiyDmUcr30gzyGLdzCR>