

Pelahatchie dancers to perform in *The Nutcracker*: Male roles available

Special to Pelahatchie News

Central Mississippi Dance, a dance studio located in Brandon, recently announced a new performance of *The Nutcracker* is coming to the region this holiday season. This variation of *The Nutcracker* will be different from the traditional ballet. In addition to ballet, it will also feature hip hop, jazz, tap, contemporary, musical theater, and acrobatics.

Two young Pelahatchie residents will perform in *The Nutcracker*. Mazie Dye, a Pre-K4 student at East Rankin Academy, will perform in tap as a toy soldier. Adlee Shea Grantham, a first-grader at Pelahatchie Elementary, will perform as a hip hop dancer.

Central Mississippi Dance is still seeking men and boys ages four and up to participate in the performance. No tights and no previous dance experience are required. Roles available include Party Scene parents and children, Herr Drosselmeyer, and the coveted Nutcracker. Anyone interested can contact Artistic Director Reagan Cooper at 601-951-6618.

"We are so excited to bring this performance to the region. So many people know the traditional ballet, but this will be a different experience! We have so many dancers talented in several differ-



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Mazie Dye (left) is a Pre-K4 student at East Rankin Academy. She is cast as a toy soldier. Dye will perform as a tap dancer. Adlee Shea Grantham (right) is a first grader at Pelahatchie Elementary School. She is cast as a mouse. Grantham will perform in hip hop dance.

ent types of dance, not just ballet, and we wanted to let them showcase their talent. The show will also feature fun music in addition to the Tchaikovsky music," said Angela Evans, teacher and choreographer.

"I am so excited about the idea of using the different dance genres as a way to make the performance all inclusive for all dancers community wide and to add our own pizzazz to *The Nutcracker*! It's going to be awesome," added Reagan Cooper, Central Mississippi Dance Owner and Artistic Director.

The Nutcracker performance will be held on Dec. 3, at the Cain-Cochran Performance Hall located at the Raymond campus of Hinds Community College.

"The staff and kids are really going to shine on opening night. The excitement is building each week as they work tirelessly. I'm so thankful and proud of each and every one involved to pull off our first performance from Rankin County," said Cooper.

Choreographers from all over the region are involved, including Leslie Johnson, Roxanne Fairchilds, Erica Wilbanks, Brenna Robertson, Faith Grier, Courtney Hogue, Angela Evans and well-known hip-hop artists Roger and Tena Long.

Tickets will be available soon for purchase.



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Volume 11 Issue 11
Circulation - 3,600

Publisher
Clay Mansell
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Editor in Chief
Stephanie Tracy

Managing Editor/Graphic Designer
Katie White, (601) 566-1932 x5
news@pelahatchienews.com

Sales
Judy Duke, (601) 706-9237 x2
sales@pelahatchienews.com

Social Media Manager
Susie A. Wolfe, (601) 566-1932 x2
susieawolfe@gmail.com

Office Manager
Doris Bynum, (601) 566-1932 x0

For submission information, email
news@pelahatchienews.com.

Pelahatchie News is published on the first Tuesday of every month in Pelahatchie, MS.

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