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# THE DANCENTER DISPATCH



## LAM PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL JAZZED UP NUTCRACKER

It's that time of year again! 'Tis the season of little ones dreaming of dancing sugar plums, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, and going to see The Nutcracker. The Living Arts Movement will be presenting it's second annual Jazzed Up Nutcracker on Sunday December 4th at 2 pm in Mohawk Valley Community College's theater. Come see this beloved ballet reimagined to showcase a more contemporary form of dance and music. This performance will feature Pyotr Illich Tchaikovsky's famous music with an added twist as it is adapted to reflect popular music styles of today. Performers will be dancing in multiple styles from tap to pointe to funky jazz. Audience members of all ages will find something fun and exciting about this new twist to an old holiday classic. Tickets can be bought for \$12 at both the Herkimer and Utica studios.

# A Conversation with Clara

*Rachel Daly, a senior at New Hartford High School, has been dancing at Dancenter of Utica since the age of three. She has been featured in numerous roles over the past couples of years in various productions of the Nutcracker and this year will be playing the lead role of Clara in LAM'S production of the Jazzed Up Nutcracker.*



## What other roles have you been in the Nutcracker?

A few years ago I was in The Leatherstocking Ballet's Nutcracker in the party scene. And then last year in LAM's nutcracker I was a party guest, a snowflake, a flower, an angel, and I was in kickline and Arabian.

## What is your all-time favorite part?

Clara has definitely has been my favorite role in the Nutcracker. There's so much room to explore with both acting and dance within the part that it's been by far the most fun!

## What is your favorite scene to be in as Clara? What are your other favorite scenes?

My favorite scene as Clara is "Journey through the Snow" which is the duet I have with Trevor (The Nutcracker). My other favorite scene is probably the party scene because it's so upbeat and fun.

## What have you learned from being Clara?

I've learned a lot more about partnering through being Clara and I've learned a lot more about how to be expressive using facial expressions and motion, rather than with my voice.

## What has been the biggest challenge for you as Clara?

The biggest challenge I've had in this role was all the different lifts. They're hard to figure out how to exactly get into them first but after a while they became more and more natural.

## Any tips for beginners to partnering?

I would suggest to really learn to trust your partner. It's scary at first but the more you get to know and trust your partner the easier lifts get.

## What makes this production of the Nutcracker special?

This production is so special because everyone does the traditional nutcracker, but our show is so different and upbeat and no one in the area has done anything like it.

Rachel would like to thank her friends and family for their support.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: LAM'S NUTCRACKER PRINCE, TREVOR JONES

The titular character of The Nutcracker is played by Trevor Jones in LAM'S production of the Jazzed Up Nutcracker. Trevor Jones, a Utica native, began his early dance training at Dancenter and Utica Dance (formally MWPAI). His training also took him to to train with one of the top studios in the Southern California area, JPD as well as the Joffrey Ballet School in NYC for their Contemporary Jazz program. His professional performance experience includes "Oklahoma" at the Venice Theater in Venice, Florida and production cast dancer for Norwegian Cruise Line. Trevor is currently in demand locally as a choreographer for musical productions and contemporary dance. Trevor also currently teaches at the Dancenter of Utica.

**Thank you to Trevor for his time and dedication to this production!**



## END OF THE YEAR RECITAL

The 2017 end of the dance season shows have been announced for the Herkimer and Utica studios. Dancers of the Utica studio will be showcasing their hard work on Friday May 19th and Saturday May 20th in the theater on Mohawk Valley Community College's

Utica campus. The Herkimer will take place at the same place on June 2nd and 3rd. This will be Dancenter of Herkimer's first annual recital. Students will be performing dances they have learned during the 2016-2017 season in the styles of ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, modern, lyrical, and more. Be on the look out for further information, such as times, for this event





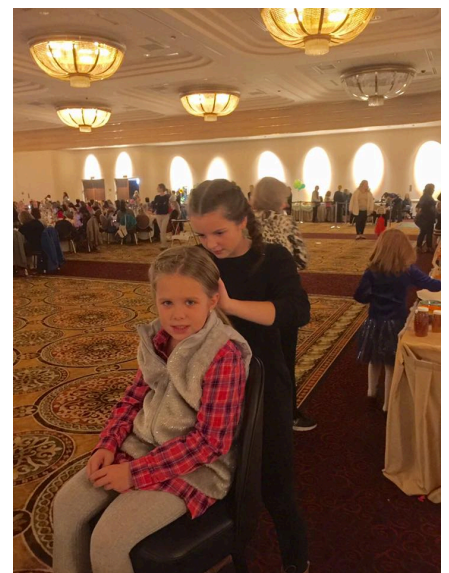
# DANCENTER DANCERS HELP FOR A GREAT CAUSE

In November, some dancers volunteered to help at the annual American Girl Fashion Show. This event was to benefit children's programs and services at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. This event was held at the Turning Stone Resort. The



event included a doll hair salon, photo opportunities, modeling souvenirs and lunch. American Girl products were also at this event. Students of Dancenter were able to help braid hair. It was a fun-filled day of fashion and style

while at the same time making a difference in the lives of children and adults at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING PAS DE DEUX CLASS FOR DANCENTER STUDENTS

On Friday December 16th, Dancenter of Herkimer will be holding a Pas De DEUX class for dancers aged 11 and up.

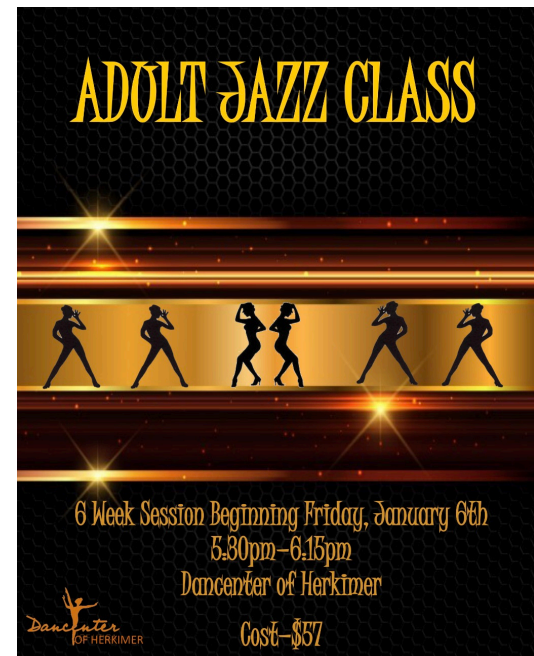
It will run from 4:30pm- 5:30 pm at the Herkimer studio

on Main Street. This is an excellent opportunity for dancers to practice partner work, a highly useful skill in the professional dance world. Come join us for this fun and informative class!



### UPCOMING DANCE OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS

Are you or anyone you know looking for a fun and new way to get in shape? If so, Dancenter of Herkimer will soon begin offering Adult Jazz classes starting in January. It will be a six week session beginning on Friday, January 6th from 5:30pm- 6:15pm. Jazz classes are an exciting way to spice up exercise routines, a nice variation from typical workouts. The cost is \$57. Talk to the front desk or call Dancenter at 315-736-6624 for more information.





## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:



Our Photo of the Month

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Utica NY

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230 North Main Street  
Herkimer, NY  
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It is our philosophy that the experience of dance should be positive and rewarding while learning the discipline required for to reach personal goals; be it furthering their career to dance professionally or to develop poise and coordination on a recreational level.

Each class is structured to the age and abilities of our dancers and is taught by highly trained, qualified, adult dance educators. Our classes are designed to teach muscle development, coordination, balance, rhythm, grace and poise. Dancers will gain independence and confidence, build positive self-image and learn to interact with others. Our main objective is for each student to learn the joy and appreciation of music and dance.

We strive to create an innovative approach to dance Training recognizing diversity, encouraging unanimous participation, and ensuring achievement by all students.

Visit us at [www.dancercenterstudio.com](http://www.dancercenterstudio.com)

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Follow us on Instagram @dancercenterofu\_herk

Comments, questions, suggestions?  
Any articles you'd like to see in future issues? Any articles you'd like to submit? We'd love to hear from you—send an email to [cat.rayhill@gmail.com](mailto:cat.rayhill@gmail.com)

