

Holiday Happenings

The Nutcracker Ballet Performing at Avalon Theatre in Grand Junction

by Sharon Sullivan

Grand Junction's premier professional dance company – the Colorado West Performing Arts Company – will present *The Nutcracker* ballet at the Avalon Theatre in Grand Junction – with five performances offered December 21-23, including two matinees.

The 1892 two-act Russian libretto by Marius Petipa, with music by Tchaikovsky is a Christmastime favorite all over the world. While Theresa Kahl's Absolute Dance and Performing Arts school, has performed the traditional ballet in Grand Junction in past years – this will be the first performance by Kahl's professional dance company, a nonprofit she founded in December 2021. The company performed its first ballet – *Cinderella* – in September.

In the past the Absolute Dance school brought in professional dancers for *The Nutcracker* from across the country to perform the roles of the Sugar Plum fairy and Cavalier.

"Now our professionals reside here in Grand Junction," as part of the dance company, Kahl said.



Nine professional contracted dancers will perform alongside 125 local dance students, all of whom, some as young as 7, auditioned to perform in this year's ballet.



"*The Nutcracker* (a story which takes place on Christmas Eve) is known as a holiday-must for ballet companies," Kahl said. "It's the most popular ballet; it's festive, and often performed around Christmastime. It brings families together for an annual tradition."

Last year 3,400 people attended the school's performance of *The Nutcracker* in Grand Junction. Kahl said she hopes 4,500 will attend this year's performances. *Cinderella* drew attendees from as far as Glenwood Springs, and Telluride, Colorado, she said.

"This will be our first year performing Nutcracker at the Avalon Theatre," Kahl said. "We are excited to bring a higher quality ballet to such a large and beautiful theatre."

"We're looking for different theatres to tour. Our goal is to branch out to smaller communities."

The Nutcracker ballet runs less than two hours and includes an intermission. Tickets range from \$30-\$55 for reserved seating. The historic Avalon Theatre is located at 645 Main St. in downtown Grand Junction.

For more information or tickets, visit: www.coloradowestpac.org/2022-23-season



THE MOAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVITES YOU TO BE

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Tree Lighting:
Friday, Dec 2nd • 5 pm

Lights Parade:
Saturday, Dec 3rd • 6 pm

Holiday Cruise:
Dec 3rd • After Parade around 7pm

Holiday Craft Fair

111E 100N

Dec 2
4-8pm

Dec 3
10am-5pm

Ft. handmade goods from over 40 vendors

moabarts.org (435) 259-6272

MOAB SWING DANCE COMMUNITY

Holiday Swing Dance

SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER
MARC 111 E 100 N

DROP-IN BEGINNER LESSON 7PM
SOCIAL DANCE 8-10PM

NO PARTNER OR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
MASKS AND PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFO VISIT THE MOAB SWING DANCE COMMUNITY FACEBOOK PAGE

2023 Moab Events

Moab Happenings

Make sure your event gets the attention it deserves.

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Email event dates to: info@moabhappenings.com 435-259-8431

- Jan 13-15 . Bluff Balloon Festival
- Jan 27-Feb 4 Winterlude Moab Music Festival
- Jan 28 Arches Ultra, distance running (9K, 50K, half marathon & 50 mile)
- Feb 3, 10, 17... Moab Science Fiction Friday Night Film Festival
- Feb 11 Puttin' on the Ritz
- Feb 18 Moab's Red Hot Ultra running event (15k, 33k, 55k & 50 mile)
- Mar 3-5 Moab Run the Rocks (long distance running event)
- Mar 11-14 .. Moab Skinny Tire Festival (road bicycle event)
- Mar 18 Canyonlands Half Marathon and 5 Mile Run
- Mar 25 Behind the Rocks Ultra (long distance running event)
- Mar 25-27... Moab Rocks (mountain bike race)
- Apr 1-9 Easter Jeep Safari
- Apr 6-7 Jeep Safari Expo
- Apr 8 Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 14-16 .. Green River Dirt Bike Rally
- Apr 15 Amasa Trail Race (dist running)

- Apr 19-23.. Cruise Moab (Toyota 4x4 event)
- Apr 29 Moab Rotary Car Show
- May 2-6 Bronco Safari (4x4 offroad)
- May 4-6 Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)
- May 6 Gran Fondo Moab (road cycling)
- May 11-13. Bikerpelli (biking from Fruita to Moab)
- May 11-14.. Raptors on the Rocks (4x4 offroad)
- May 13 Thelma & Louise (running long dist) Marathon, 1/2 Marathon, 15k & 50K
- May 13 CO2UT Desert Gravel
- May 19-21... Willys Overland Rally
- May 21-26... Gone Moab (Nissan offroad event)
- May 27-28... Moab Arts Festival
- May 27-29... Barrels 4 Bucks
- Jun /Jul/Aug.. Moab Free Concert Series
- Jun 2- 4 Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo
- Jun 9-10 Kokopelli Relay (road cycling from Moab to St. George)
- Jun 9-11 Moab Music Festival Highwater
- Jun 18-24... Desert Rats Kokopelli 150 (running event from Fruita to Moab)

- Jun/Jul/Aug... Summer Free Movie Series at Swanny Park
- Jun 24 Bears Ears Ultra (Monticello) (long distance running event)
- Jul 1-4 Grand County Fair
- Jul 4 Independence Day Celebration
- Jul 24 Pioneer Day Celebration
- Aug 21-Sep 15... Moab Music Festival
- Sep 2-4 RR4W Labor Day Campout (four-wheel drive event)
- Sep 9-16 ... Moab Charity Rally (fundraiser)
- Sep 15-16. Green River Melon Days
- Sep 16-17. Moab Century Tour (road bicycle event)
- Sep 23 Youth Garden Harvest Festival
- Sep tba UT High School Mt Bike Race
- Sep tba Red Rock Arts Festival
- Sep 29-Oct 1... Outerbike (Mountain Bike Expo)
- Sep 30 Moab ArTTrails Exhibition
- Sep 30 - Oct 8... Plein Air Moab
- Oct 7 Arches Marathon & Half, 15k & 50k
- Oct 13-17 .. Moab 240 Endurance Run

- Oct 20-22... Moab Celtic Festival 'Scots on the Rocks'
- Oct 21-22 .. Red Canyon Powwow
- Oct 26-28.. Jeep Jamboree
- Oct 28-29.. Canyonlands Ultra (long distance running event)
- Oct 29 Day of the Dead Celebration
- Oct 29-Nov 3... Moab Folk Camp
- Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 3-5 Moab Folk Festival
- Nov 3-6 Moab Craggin' Classic (rock climbing event)
- Nov 4 Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- Nov 4-5 Moab Trail Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K & Kids K
- Nov 11 Turkey Trot
- Nov 18 Dead Horse Ultra (15k, 30k, 50k, 50 mile)
- Dec 1 Holiday Tree Lighting
- Dec 1-2 Holiday Craft Fair
- Dec 2 Electric Light Parade