



Contact: Lori Galvan
Phone: 619.522.4050 x 3
Email: lgalvan@coronado.k12.ca.us

For Immediate Release

The Cracked Nut -- A Holiday Tradition with a Twist

November, 2009, Coronado – When the nut cracks the magic begins with dancing mice, snowflake-throwing ballerinas, percolating coffee, and a garden of lollipops and other sweets. As most ballet companies and dance studios rehearse their soldiers and sugarplums for the annual productions of the Tchaikovsky holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, Betzi Roe and her Coronado School Dance Company at Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) are creating a new take on the story. *The Cracked Nut* offers an innovative, zany, and artful twist on the traditional production. Performances take place December 11th and 12th at 7:00 p.m. and December 13th at 2:00 pm at the state-of-the-art Coronado High Performing Arts Center, 650 D Avenue Coronado.

As the nut cracks and opens, a kingdom of sweets comes alive. These tasty dance treats include hip-hopping Cuban coffee, techno fortune cookies, Chai Tea à la Bollywood, and candy canes grooving to Annie Lennox. The diverse music suits each theme. CoSA dance students choreographed many of the segments, and dance styles alternate between ballet, jazz, hip hop, folk inspired forms, and modern dance.

"All of the genres of dance blend well together in this imaginative potpourri since this production is about using one's imagination to the fullest. The styles of dance complement each other and make for a surprisingly engaging show," says Artistic Director Betzi Roe. Roe's gifts as a mentor and artistic director shine in this production. Her students learn all aspects of dance making, from choreography, to music selection, to different dance styles. Roe helps them tap into their creativity and develop the seeds of ideas into entire dances. These CoSA students will be the dancers, choreographers, and artistic innovators of the future.

In addition to the choreography by talented CoSA students, CoSA dance faculty has added superb touches to *The Cracked Nut*. Gina Sorenson choreographed the party scene in Act 1 to the music of Anjulie; Tiffany Bagg closes it with the central character falling asleep and dreaming as her imagination spins "As Fast as You Can" to Fiona Apple. Sadie Weinberg, Daniel Marshall, and Betzi Roe add to the collaboration. CoSA dance productions always engage and entertain. Previous productions of *Go Ask Alice* (Roe's take on *Alice in Wonderland*) and *Appalachian Spring* (all new choreography by Roe), a collaboration with members of the San Diego Symphony have shown that something powerful is going on in the CoSA dance department. *The Cracked Nut* will be no exception.

The Cracked Nut begins with stardust and continues with magic. Don't miss it. Tickets range from \$7 to \$15 and may be purchased online at www.cosafoundation.org. For more information about this production or CoSA please call 619.522.4050.

About Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA)

CoSA is a public arts conservatory for high school students that embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence. This pre-professional arts program reaches out to talented students from all over San Diego County and offers a nurturing environment focused on individual growth, opportunity, and diversity.

CoSA is made possible by Coronado School of the Arts Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation whose stakeholders are passionate about supporting Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA), improving community awareness of CoSA, and securing funds to perpetuate, improve and expand the school's programs. CoSA is a public arts conservatory for students in grades 9-12 that embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence, reaching out to talented students from all San Diego County. For more information on CoSA or the Foundation, call 619.522.4050 or visit www.cosafoundation.org.

Attached Photos:

Caption: Featured soloist in the Cracked Nut, Emiko Nelson

Photo credit: Manuel Rotenberg

Caption: CoSA ballerinas (right to left) Sarah Dunseath, Alexandra Prantil, Angela Bevevino and Melissa Roetker show the more traditional side of The Cracked Nut.

Photo credit: Manuel Rotenberg

###