



# Gloucester County College

LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

**Press Release #** 078  
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**Title** Center Stage Productions Holiday Ballet to Support GCC Scholarships:  
NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE HAS STRONG TIES TO GCC

Deptford Twp. –Gloucester County College plays a lead role in Center Stage Productions’ upcoming Christmas ballet, “**The Nutcracker**” being performed at Rowan University’s Pfleeger Concert Hall on **December 17 and 18**.

Under the direction of GCC graduate Tricia Sloan, the troupe will present four performances of Tchaikovsky’s classic work. A portion of the proceeds will support student scholarships awarded in memory of GCC faculty members Dr. John Chard and Thomas Sloan, Tricia Sloan’s grandfather. The two scholarships were established in 2002 and are awarded annually to deserving GCC students. This year, Center Stage Productions will sponsor a third scholarship in honor of English instructor Angela Martino-Way, of Paulsboro. All three GCC instructors taught in the College’s Liberal Arts division.

Over 100 cast members will grace the stage during the full-length version of “The Nutcracker” with special dancers Jonathan Godfrey, of Woodbury Heights, and Vivian Prieto, of Barnsboro, sharing the spotlight as they perform the lead roles of Clara and her Prince.

Godfrey, a seventh-grade student at St. Margaret’s School in Woodbury Heights has been dancing for four years and plans to attend the South Jersey Academy of Performing Arts High School (GCIT) to major in dance. He is the son of GCC graduates Edward and Donna Godfrey. Edward Godfrey is a former GCC computer

center employee.

Prieto, a sixth-grade student at the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware, has been dancing for nine years and is the second generation of ballet dancers in her family. She is the daughter of Dr. Jorge Prieto and Dr. Debra Prieto.

Other principal dancers in the ballet include Sugar Plum Fairy Fang Ju Chou Gant, a professional dancer currently with the Koresh Dance Company in Philadelphia. Kip Martin, also with the Koresh Company, is her cavalier. Tara Morrone, a former ballet dancer with Eliot Feld's Company Ballet Tech in New York City, will dance the role of the Snow Queen. Meredith Lyons, a former ballet dancer with Albany-Berkshire, and Thomas Gant, Jr., a GCIT graduate and scholarship student at Joffrey Ballet in New York City, will also appear on stage.

Center Stage Productions is a non-profit organization based in residence at the Tricia Sloan Dance Center in Wenonah. Sloan is a GCC graduate who has performed as a singer, dancer, and actress. Center Stage Productions' mission is to produce top quality live theatre and dance, using local aspiring and experienced performers.

Past productions of "The Nutcracker" have been performed in the GCC Fine Arts Center, however, because of high ticket demand this season's performance has been moved to the Rowan concert hall which seats about 900 people.

Show times are as follows: Saturday, December 17, 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 18, 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For ticket information call (856) 464-0128 or visit [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com).

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