

# Los Gatos Ballet

Marcie Ryken, Artistic Director

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## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Annarose Monroe

408.828.4285

annarose.monroe@gmail.com

## **Los Gatos Ballet Dancers Train at Elite Ballet Schools Across the Country**

**Los Gatos, CA**, - This summer, Los Gatos Ballet dancers trained at some of the nation's leading professional ballet schools including: American Ballet Theatre in New York City & Orange County, Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, Houston Ballet, Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Alonzo King Lines Ballet in San Francisco, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Ballet San Jose and Oregon Ballet Theatre.

Most people don't realize the level of talent Los Gatos Ballet brings to our local community. To be accepted into these types of summer dance programs, students must be at a high level of ballet technique and artistry. "I am always thankful for everything I have learned from my training at Los Gatos Ballet. The teachers there have shown me so much of who I am as a person and as a dancer.", says Sarah Auches, Saratoga High School sophomore who danced with Oregon Ballet Theatre in Portland. "I felt that Los Gatos Ballet has prepared me well for my experience with Boston Ballet, particularly because of the individual attention we receive from all of our teachers.", says Madeleine Monroe, 14-year-old Los Gatos resident. "I feel that my training at Los Gatos Ballet is wonderful, I love the instructors, the staff, and my fellow students. I feel that I grow more artistically and technically efficient each year that I attend Los Gatos Ballet.", said 17-year-old Mariah Ordaz.

During summer programs students typically train full days Monday through Friday. They study classical ballet as well as a variety of dance genres such as character, musical theater, modern, mime, choreography and African dance. This allows students to expand their technique into other areas. "My overall experience with American Ballet Theatre was very good. From the different teachers to the new classes I was able to learn a lot. Some of the new classes that I took were character class and musical theatre. One of my favorite classes was musical theatre because I was able to learn a dance from the Addams Family musical. I also took nutrition and anatomy which helped me understand my body even more.", says 14-year-old dancer, Kirina Patel.

Although much of the time is centered on dance, students were able to take in the sites. "It was an amazing experience. The Boston Ballet School has great teachers, and the studios are beautiful. Some days were exhausting, but that's how you improve as a dancer. Boston is a

really fun city, and it wasn't all dancing—we also did some fun activities, like going to a Red Sox game, seeing the musical Newsies, and doing a dinner cruise in the Boston Harbor.”, says Los Gatos High School sophomore, Maddie Kolber.

Los Gatos Ballet students returning from summer intensives felt that they have something to contribute to their community as well as their ballet school. “I see myself enriching my local community by taking part in the Los Gatos Ballet's performances. Not everyone has access to the Performing Arts and Los Gatos Ballet's outreach performances are there for those who might not get to see ballet performances.” says Patel. “In order to enrich our ballet school community I seek to guide the younger students so that they too may reach their goals.”, says Ordaz.

These company dancers will be working hard this year to incorporate what they have learned this summer along with their continued training at Los Gatos Ballet. “This year I am going to work harder and at a faster pace, and overall take my ballet training to the next level.”, says Monroe. “My ballet hopes for this coming year are to be able to develop more artistry as a dancer and perfect my technique.”, says Patel. “This year I hope to improve my ballet technique further, and to discover more of who I am as an artist.”, says Auches.

When asked what kind of support these students desire from their local community, they said, “My local community can help support me this coming year by attending our shows. They can support our studio, so that we can continue to perform.”, says Patel. “The best way to support us is by coming to see our shows! I can't say how much it means to us dancers when we are dancing to a full house! It's amazing!” , says Monroe.

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#### **About Los Gatos Ballet**

Our mission is to inspire and cultivate an appreciation and love of dance by providing quality educational and training programs, superb performances, and collaboration with other arts organizations. We are known for our exquisite production of **The Nutcracker** held this December 4,5,6 at the Flint Center in Cupertino, have a repertoire of 5 full-length ballets performed every spring and provide outreach programs in our community. This spring we will be performing **Swan Lake**. For more information, visit: [www.LosGatosBallet.org](http://www.LosGatosBallet.org)

#### **Los Gatos Ballet Publicity Contact**

Annarose Monroe, Marketing Director

408.828.4285 [annarose.monroe@gmail.com](mailto:annarose.monroe@gmail.com)

#### **LOS GATOS BALLET**

**630 University Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032 408.399.7577 [www.losgatosballet.org](http://www.losgatosballet.org)**