

October 17, 2009

Contact:
Terra Schultz
773-493-8498
admin@hydeparkdance.org

Hyde Park School of Dance Presents *The Nutcracker* - Largest Cast in the School's History

The Hyde Park School of Dance will present its **11th annual production of *The Nutcracker* on December 12 and 13**. This family-friendly production is a south side favorite and provides an abundance of merriment and magic, from mischievous baby mice to shimmering snowflakes, a giant Mother Ginger, and festive dances from faraway lands. This year's *Nutcracker* features the largest cast in the School's history: 143 dancers, ranging in age from five to 18.

The production is choreographed by the School's founder and artistic director August Tye. Ms. Tye is ballet mistress for the **Lyric Opera of Chicago**, where she was also the revival choreographer for the highly acclaimed 2007 Lyric production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

The *Nutcracker* cast includes members of the School's youth company, some of whom have been studying dance for 14 years. The performance begins with a special "Pre-Ballet Holiday Dance," featuring seasonal choreography performed by the School's youngest dancers. *The Nutcracker* is sponsored by The University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement.

Performances are scheduled for **Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m. at Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street**. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and free for children under five, with discounts available for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling (773) 493-8498 or at the door, pending availability. Free parking is available in a multi-story garage three blocks from Mandel Hall, at 55th Street and Ellis Avenue.

Following the Sunday, December 13 matinee, the Hyde Park School of Dance will hold its annual **Sugar Plum Holiday Tea Party**. Partygoers will meet the Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, the

more

Mouse King, and other *Nutcracker* characters at this festive event. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, and can be purchased by calling (773) 493-8498.

Founded in 1993, the non-profit Hyde Park School of Dance (HPSD) is a vital part of the south side arts community, recognized for providing top-notch training in classical and contemporary dance for students of all ages whether their goals are professional or recreational. Enrolling over 350 students, HPSD offers progressive training in ballet and modern technique as well as a year-round performance schedule, with an emphasis on original choreography. Each year, HPSD students are accepted into the country's premier summer training programs, including the School of American Ballet and the American Ballet Theater. Alumni of the school have gone on to train and perform with the Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Dance Theater of Harlem. Committed to providing opportunities for any young person who wants to dance, the Hyde Park School of Dance provides need-based scholarships and offers an outreach program in local public schools and community organizations.

For more information, please call (773) 493-8498, or visit www.hydeparkdance.org.



#