

# OWEN/COX DANCE GROUP

## PRESS RELEASE for immediate release November 12, 2014

**From:** Owen/Cox Dance Group  
4230 Holmes Street  
Kansas City, MO 64110

**What:** *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*

**Where:** The Polsky Theatre, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS 66210

**When:** Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

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Almost everyone is familiar with the traditional version of the holiday story *The Nutcracker*. Far fewer are aware of the original and notably darker inspiration for this beloved ballet--E.T.A Hoffman's 1816 story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. Owen/Cox Dance Group will present their highly unique, contemporary jazz adaptation of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, at the Polsky Theatre on December 13 at 8:00 p.m. and December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Owen/Cox Dance Group's production of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* was choreographed by Jennifer Owen in collaboration with The People's Liberation Big Band of Greater Kansas City, horn sculptor Mark Southerland, costume designer Peggy Noland, and Peregrine Honig.

The lead role of the Nutcracker will be danced by William Cannon. Cannon has been a featured dancer with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, BalletX, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and BalletMet, and was named by Dance Magazine as "one of 25 to Watch" in 2005. Other dancers featured in the production include Greg Blackmon, Holly DeWitt, Nadia Iozzo, Betty Kondo, Jennifer Owen, Jason Rodriguez, James Washington, and Latra Wilson. Six dance students of Paseo Academy of the Fine and Performing Arts will also perform in the work.

Sixteen musicians of The People's Liberation Big Band of Greater Kansas City, led by Brad Cox, will perform both original music and radical rearrangements of Tchaikovsky melodies. Notable jazz musicians performing include Roger Wilder, Stan Kessler, Rich Wheeler, and Jeff Harshbarger.

This will be the last opportunity for audience members to see *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* in Kansas City for a while. Over the next few years the company aims to focus on regional touring of the production.

There will be a special workshop before the Sunday performance in the JCCC lobby. Our education program, *Take the Stage*, will host a dance class for children ages 6-12 at

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1:00p. Any child who is attending the performance on Sunday is able to participate in this workshop.

Performance times are 8:00 p.m. December 13, and 2:00 p.m. December 14. Our *Take the Stage* dance workshop will be 1:00 p.m. on December 14. Tickets cost \$10-\$20. Tickets are available at the Johnson County Community College box office 913-469-4445 (12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS 66210), or online at [www.owencoxdance.org](http://www.owencoxdance.org). More information is available at [www.owencoxdance.org](http://www.owencoxdance.org).