

TOM GOLD DANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2024

COCA ST. LOUIS PRESENTS A NEW PRODUCTION

OF THE NUTCRACKER FROM TOM GOLD

DECEMBER 13–15, 2024

New York, NY— The Center of Creative Arts (COCA) in St. Louis, Missouri will present a new production of The Nutcracker by Tom Gold Dance Founder and Director Tom Gold, Friday, December 13, followed by performances Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15 in the Catherine B. Berges Theatre.

Featuring Ballet Eclectica (COCA's Pre-Professional Division classical and contemporary ballet company, and COCA young ballet dancers ages 6–18) with guest artists Carly Greene and David Wright of Dance Theatre Harlem and COCA alumna JiaLi Deck, Gold's version of the holiday classic to Tchaikovsky's beloved score sets E.T.A. Hoffman's fairytale about a Nutcracker that comes to life in the 1920s, incorporating the Gateway Arch, Forest Park, Union Station, and other St. Louis landmarks into the story.

"I am thrilled COCA's co-Artistic Directors of Dance Antonio Douthit-Boyd and Kervin Douthit-Boyd invited me to reimagine The Nutcracker, a staple of the ballet cannon and a work so pivotal to my own performance career," says Tom Gold. "I especially loved the opportunity to make this production more personal for St. Louis audiences by highlighting some of the city's historic sites and locations, as well as to work with a group of talented and committed young artists."

Information

Friday, December 13 at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 14 at 3:00PM and 7:00PM; and Sunday, December 15 at 1:00PM and 5:00PM, Catherine B. Berges Theatre, 880 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63130. Remaining tickets, \$31, are available at www.cocastl.org or by calling the COCA Box Office at 314.561.4873. Additional activities related to these performances described at www.cocast.org.

About Tom Gold Dance

Tom Gold Dance was founded in 2008 by former New York City Ballet soloist Tom Gold to bring the past, present, and future of classical dance to audiences in New York and around the world. Through annual self-produced programs in New York City and other engagements, Tom Gold Dance aspires to the highest level of artistry expressed through a traditional classical dance vocabulary, including in more than two dozen original works by Gold, envisioned for and set directly on Company dancers, among the world's most accomplished. Tom Gold Dance has developed unique and site-specific programs with, among others, the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Manhattan; The Morgan Library and Museum, Fondazione Burri in Città di Castello, Italy; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; TurnPark Art Space in West Stockbridge, MA; and Untermyer Park and Gardens in Yonkers. Besides Italy, Tom Gold Dance has also performed internationally in Bermuda, Bulgaria, Cuba, Israel, France, and Spain. The Company has conducted several residencies in the Berkshires, and has been awarded two CUNY Dance Initiative residencies through the Gerald W. Lynch Theater and On Stage at Kingsborough. Tom Gold Dance participated in the Annual Battery Dance Festival in 2020, appeared at Little Island in Hudson River Park in 2022, and made its debut at the Newport Dance Festival in Newport, RI in 2023, returning in 2024. In 2021, the Company created a series of promotional videos with the Penguin Random House imprint Riverhead Books. Learn more at tomgolddance.org.

About Tom Gold

Internationally recognized dancer, choreographer, and instructor Tom Gold is the Founder and Artistic Director of Tom Gold Dance. A 2016 National Choreographers Initiative participant, Gold has created original

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works for his eponymous company, as well as for Vassar College, the Bermuda Arts Festival, Oregon Ballet Theater, the New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute, St. Louis Ballet, and many other dance academies, companies, festivals, television, and special events, including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Bravo series *Odd Mom Out* starring Jill Kargman, and the New York City Fringe Festival for which he won the 2016 award for Overall Excellence for his work in *The Joey Variations: A Play With Dance*. A 21-year member (1987–2008) of New York City Ballet where he rose to the rank of soloist, Gold is the choreographer and performer of the 2wice Arts Foundation's *DOT DOT DOT*, an interactive iPad application by Abbott Miller of Pentagram.

About Center of Creative Arts (COCA)

COCA's mission is to enrich lives and build community through the arts. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves more than 60,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 250 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and onsite at its campus in University City.

Media Inquiries

Alexander Zaretsky, Executive Director
(917) 353-5422
alex@tomgolddance.org