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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Continue Your Holiday Tradition with SALT CREEK BALLET's 'THE NUTCRACKER'
December 5 at GSU's Center for Performing Arts**

November 16, 2015 (University Park, IL) – The highly acclaimed Salt Creek Ballet returns with the lovable holiday classic *The Nutcracker*. The production was recently revamped with all new sets and costumes, and features internationally recognized guest dancer, Yury Yanowsky, partnering Salt Creek Ballet dancer, Stefanee Montesantos. Bring the whole family to the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University on **Saturday, December 5th at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.** for the perfect start to the holiday season. Families will enjoy a 'Sugar Plum Party' between the performances at 3 p.m. where they can take pictures with Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and enter to win prizes.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* calls the production "...a solid, professional 'Nutcracker'," and The *Chicago Tribune* calls it "a plum performance." An enchanting holiday tradition, this year's production of *The Nutcracker* features a cast of 100 dancers, including local children and young adults ages 8-17 from the school of the Salt Creek Ballet.

This year, internationally recognized **Yury Yanowsky** will take to the stage with SCB's **Stefanee Montesantos** as Cavalier and Sugar Plum Fairy. Mr. Yanowsky spent the last fifteen years as a Principal Dancer with Boston Ballet. He is a first prize winner of the Prix de Laussane and a Silver Medalist at the International Ballet Competition Varna in Bulgaria, in addition to being a Senior Division Silver Medalist at the 1994 USA International Ballet Competition. Mr. Yanowsky has recently turned his attentions to choreography and is the Winner of the 2015 Erik Bruhn Choreographic Prize as awarded by The National Ballet of Canada.

Ms. Montesantos began studying with Salt Creek Ballet when she was just three years old. The seventeen year old dancer was recently singled out among over 240 dancers from six states to receive a full scholarship to American Ballet Theatre's prestigious Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis school for the summer of 2016 in addition to being awarded a special, private week at Houston Ballet School. Over SCB's 30 year history, the company has only cast three SCB company members in the leading role of Sugar Plum Fairy - the role is only awarded only when there is an individual dancer possessing the technical capacity and stage presence to lead the cast in this magical ballet.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$23-43 for adults, \$23 for seniors (65 and older); and \$23 for children (16 and under).

Online: CenterTickets.net

By Phone: 708.235.2222

In Person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

Box Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (open to 6p.m. on Thursdays) & 2 hours prior to all performances

A portion of The Center's programming is supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. If you would like to donate to the Center for Performing Arts please visit CenterTickets.net for details.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484. Conveniently located off of I57 (Sauk Trail exit), the Center for Performing Arts is easily accessible from all neighboring south suburban communities. Parking is free. For best GPS directions always use the location search term "Governors State University" only.

About Salt Creek Ballet

Salt Creek Ballet is a not-for-profit Illinois corporation supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency through Federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. The Nutcracker Production Sponsor is The Grover Hermann Foundation. Production Angels are Bob & Fran Boardman, Bill & Mary

Castellano, John & Katharine Hamilton, Brendan & Lauren Kavanaugh and Eloise Smith. The Nutcracker Production Partner is The DuPage Community Foundation. Victorian Dress Sponsor is The Service Club of Chicago. Leading sponsors are BMO Harris Bank and BNSF; Media Sponsor is The Doings Newspaper Group. For more information, visit the Salt Creek Ballet online at www.saltcreekballet.org.

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