

Rockland Youth Dance Ensemble  
presents

# *The Nutcracker 2016*

Fall 2016

Dear Supporter:

The Rockland Youth Dance Ensemble (RYDE) is a nonprofit company organized under the laws of the State of New York and is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All contributions to RYDE are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* was first performed by the Ensemble in 1981, marking 2016 our 36th performance year. RYDE performers are students of classical ballet who are cast through audition, and performers from the professional theatre world. This year, our cast numbers over 200.

Primary funding of all performances is through ticket sales and revenue from advertising in our commemorative Playbill. Read by nearly 5,000 people who attend RYDE's performances of *The Nutcracker*, over two weekends, this publication is an effective way to promote your business. As a past or potential advertiser, we are giving you the enclosed ad order form to place your ad in this year's commemorative Playbill.

One of the many aims of RYDE is to bring a quality production of this time-honored classic to the Rockland community. Each year, an evening performance is presented at Helen Hayes Hospital free of charge. This community performance is attended by many residents and their friends and families each year, and is made possible, in part through fundraising efforts of RYDE's Board of Directors. This provides an opportunity for our young performers to give back to their communities in a meaningful way. Another objective of RYDE is to provide young dancers and choreographers with a quality professional vehicle within which they can perform and present their work.

On behalf of RYDE and its Board of Directors, we sincerely thank you for your much needed support.

Sincerely,

*Lona Benney Kaplan*

Lona Benney Kaplan  
Executive Director