

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**Monday, December 7, 2020**

CONTACT: Tammy Koolbeck, Stephens Auditorium, (515) 294-8809, tkool@iastate.edu
Sydney Upah, Stephens Auditorium, (515) 294-2509, saupah@iastate.edu

Iowa Youth Ballet
Presents
Sugarplum Celebration
Sunday, December 13 at 1pm and 6pm

Ames, IA - Stephens Auditorium will host *Sugarplum Celebration*, a holiday ballet featuring dancers from Iowa Youth Ballet, on Sunday, December 13 for two shows at 1:00pm and 6:00pm. The shows will also be livestreamed due to COVID limited capacity guidelines in place at the venue. *Sugarplum Celebration* offers 19 charming holiday-themed dance pieces from 11 choreographers and approximately 85 dancers.

“Every year our dancers, together with numerous other dancers from our central Iowa community, participate in the Iowa State Center’s *Nutcracker Ballet* at Stephens Auditorium,” said Robert Thomas, IYB’s Artistic Director. “The *Nutcracker* was scheduled for its 40th annual performance this year. Sadly, due to COVID-19 in our community, the ballet was canceled. This decision has impacted hundreds of children that traditionally participate in this event. We, at IYB, have decided to put on *Sugarplum Celebration*, a holiday event to replace *Nutcracker* for this year.”

“With the uncertainty of the pandemic and the desire to honor the 40th year of the *Nutcracker* properly, we cancelled this long-running holiday event in September,” said Tammy Koolbeck, Stephens Auditorium’s Executive Director. “Shortly after this decision, we began working with Iowa Youth Ballet on an alternative holiday ballet that would work within our venue’s COVID-19 guidelines for backstage and front of house. We are pleased that the months of planning will allow our community’s young dancers to perform this shortened ballet program.”

The Iowa Youth Ballet (IYB) was created as a non-profit dance company in 2001. Robert Thomas and Miyoko Kato Thomas have served as the Executive Director and Artistic Director since its beginning. Based in Ames, Iowa, IYB provides aspiring young dancers the opportunity to further their studies and work in a professional-like environment. Performing an ever-changing array of classical and contemporary ballets, as well as character dance, the IYB has something for everyone.

Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 day of show (if seats are still available). Livestream prices are \$13 for an individual stream and \$23 for a group stream.

For tickets and livestream information, please visit <https://www.center.iastate.edu/iyb-sugarplum/>.