

La Séptima: A Gatsby Affair

A journey through heritage,
passion, and the untold
stories of Tampa's history



TAMPA CITY BALLET

www.tampacityballet.org

New Tampa Performing Arts Center
October 3 & 4, 2025

Dear Patrons,

Welcome to the Tampa City Ballet's **La Séptima: A Gatsby Affair!** I am deeply honored and humbled by your presence here this evening. To our distinguished guests, generous sponsors, dedicated Board of Directors, and cherished friends--thank you for believing in our vision and making our dreams possible.

Tampa is a vibrant, growing city with a rich cultural landscape, yet it remains one of the few major metropolitan areas in the country without an established professional dance company. Tampa City Ballet was founded to fill this void and has worked diligently over the past seven years to fulfill its mission of serving the community through unique performances, high-quality arts education, and the transformative power of dance. As our programs thrive and our audiences continue to grow, we find ourselves at an exciting crossroads.

Tampa City Ballet envisions a distinct future, cultivating an environment where emerging artists can flourish, transforming our city with inspiring productions, and ensuring the arts are accessible to all. Our vision is to establish Tampa Bay as a leading multicultural and multidisciplinary global center for innovative excellence in the performing arts. We believe in the transformative power of the arts to enrich lives and communities. Our goal is to inspire, uplift, and enhance the cultural landscape of Tampa for generations to come.

Tonight, you are part of this journey.
Thank you for joining us for an
extraordinary adventure.

With deepest appreciation,

Paula Núñez
Artistic Director
Tampa City Ballet



PRELUDE



Ybor City was born in the late 1800s, when cigar magnates brought thousands of Cuban, Spanish, and Italian workers to Tampa. Life centered around its grand social clubs—the Cuban, Italian, and Spanish clubs—which still stand today. These were places of music, theater, learning, and pride. But even here, Jim Crow cast its shadow: families divided, forced apart by the color of their skin.

Ybor was also a revolutionary hub. José Martí himself came here, rallying support for Cuba's independence. Tampa's cigars gained worldwide fame—so much so that Winston Churchill demanded his be rolled only by María Ferlita, known as Golden Hands. Inside the factories, cigar rolling was long and tedious. To pass the hours, workers listened to *lectores*—professional readers who stood above them, giving voice to novels, newspapers, even fiery speeches calling for change.

That culture began to crumble with mechanization.

At the same time, Prohibition opened the door to an underground world—speakeasies, rum-running, tunnels filled with secrets, and *bolita*, the illegal lottery. Into this world stepped Charles McKay Wall, known as Charlie Wall. Born on March 10th, 1880. A boy who shot his despised stepmother at 12, and then turned to the streets.

They called him *The White Shadow*. To some, a gangster. To others, a Robin Hood—slipping money to striking cigar workers in exchange for their votes. For decades, he ruled Tampa's underworld—*bolita*, bootlegging, even politics itself.

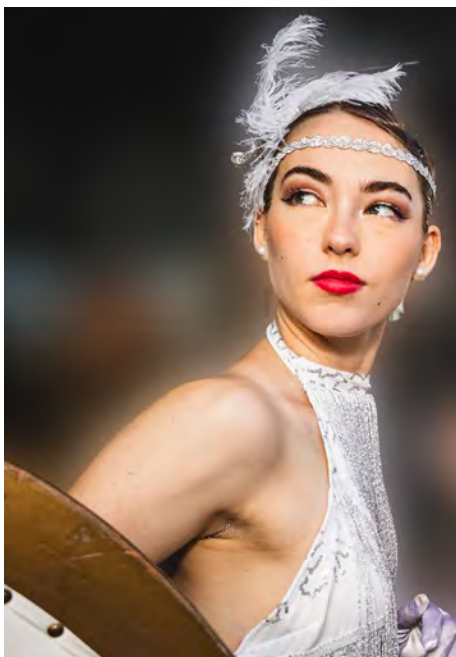
But power always invites rivals. From Sicily came Santo Trafficante. At first, an ally. Then, an adversary. Together, they moved in a delicate dance of loyalty and betrayal, ambition and blood.

And it is here, in the shadows of Ybor, that our story begins.



La Séptima: A Gatsby Affair was created out of a deep commitment to preserving and reimagining the cultural heritage of Ybor City through the transformative power of the arts. This multidisciplinary project integrates dance, visual arts, artificial intelligence video & imaging, live singing, and installations to tell the story of a resilient community rich with untold narratives.

La Séptima: A Gatsby Affair was not only developed to celebrate the history embedded in Ybor's streets but also to activate that history in a way that fosters connection, reflection, and imagination. For our audiences, it is more than just a performance; it becomes a shared experience of place, memory, and identity.



TAMPA CITY BALLET



TCB Dancers:

Ella Addison, Nicole Assaad, Kali Bartasavich, Jhon Delgado, Rosabel Garcia, Brian Gonzalez, Kate Kunselman, Bailey Lord, Mackenzie McLean, Marta Ortega, Shelby Russ, Carissa Smith

Dancer Bios



tampacityballet.org/dancers

Guest Dancer: Jackson Kettell

Actor: Cornelio Aguilera

Trainees: Joey Bell, Charlotte Blake, Cole Dreiling
Jordan Malkie, Larissa Tagami

Leadership

Paula Núñez:	Artistic Director and Founder
Jennifer Kahane:	Executive Director
Marguerite Pinard, MD:	Managing Director
Natalie Frushour:	Development Director
Sharmila Seth:	Chief Curator
Donna Ray:	Finance Director
Jen Gordon:	Advancement Director
Beatriz Correa:	Project Specialist
Nichole Lancaster:	Marketing
Regina Brown:	Administrative Specialist
Andrew Carroll:	Development Consultant
Ramón Lopez:	Production
Luana Hidalgo:	Outreach Director & Ballet Mistress
Osmany Montano:	Associate Artistic Director & Ballet Master

Board of Directors

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Odeta Xheka

Marketing & Communications

Web Design:	Taps Agency
Graphic Design:	Milorian Marketing & Advertising

Music & Visuals

Carolyn Vacarizas:	Stage Manager
Alonso Toro:	Audio
Paula Nuñez:	Costume Designer
Tiger Tao:	Videographer
Odeta Xheka:	Sets and Props

La Séptima: A Gatsby Affair

Original choreography created by Artistic Director, Paula Núñez in collaboration with Marta Ortega, Shelby Russ, and the dancers.

Lighting Designer & Projection Mapping Artist: Joseph Smith

Audio: Jay Ashworth

Flyman: Steve Cragg

Our Special Thanks to Photographers

Michael Sheehan & Dave Decker

AI Video & Images Santiago Echeverry

Song Credits	Malagueña / Siboney	by Ernesto Lecuona
	Castá Diva	by Vincenzo Bellini
	Quando m'en vo	by Giacomo Puccini

Coloratura Soprano Daniella Mass | daniellamass.com

Original Music Pacho Chibás | pachochibas.com





New Tampa Performing Arts Center

Located in the heart of New Tampa, the **New Tampa Performing Arts Center** is where the arts take center stage – to inspire, connect, and educate. Since opening in 2023, NTPAC has become the cultural centerpiece of the community.

The center brings diverse, professional performing arts events to New Tampa, allowing the community to enjoy exceptional performances from esteemed groups such as The Florida Orchestra, Tampa City Ballet, Opera Tampa, Tampa Bay Symphony, and many others right in their own neighborhood. Additionally, NTPAC is proud to be the performance home for the New Tampa Players, a valued community theatre group that presents its productions on the center's stage each season.

NTPAC also curates a trio of unique concert series spotlighting musical artists across genres, the New Tampa Unplugged Series, the Steinway Signature Series, and the New Tampa Jazz Nights in association with the Tampa Jazz Club. In addition to a wide variety of performing arts events, people of all ages can explore the arts through NTPAC's educational programs spanning dance, drama, music, and more.

Visit the events page to learn about upcoming events or the rental page for information on how the center can transform into a perfect venue for your next performing arts event. Follow NTPAC on Facebook, Instagram, and X, and subscribe to the email newsletter to stay informed about upcoming events and performances.



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THANK YOU!



Hillsborough
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Humana.

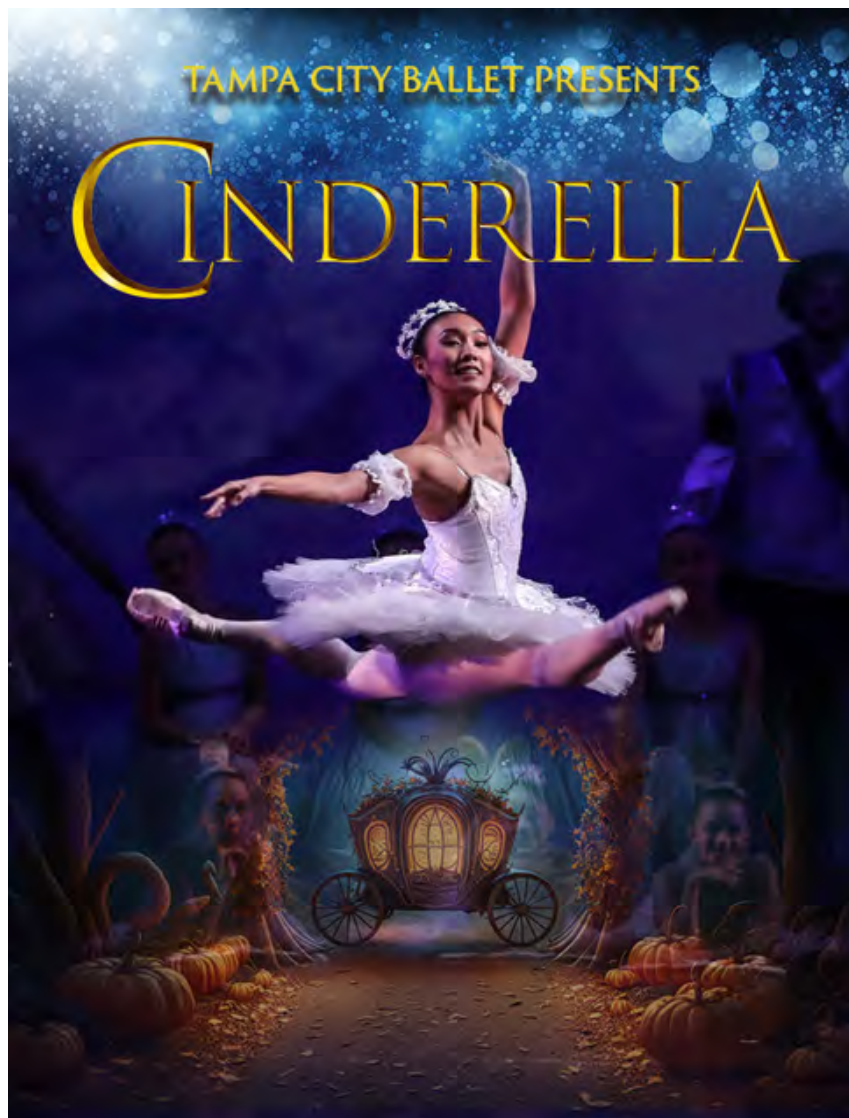


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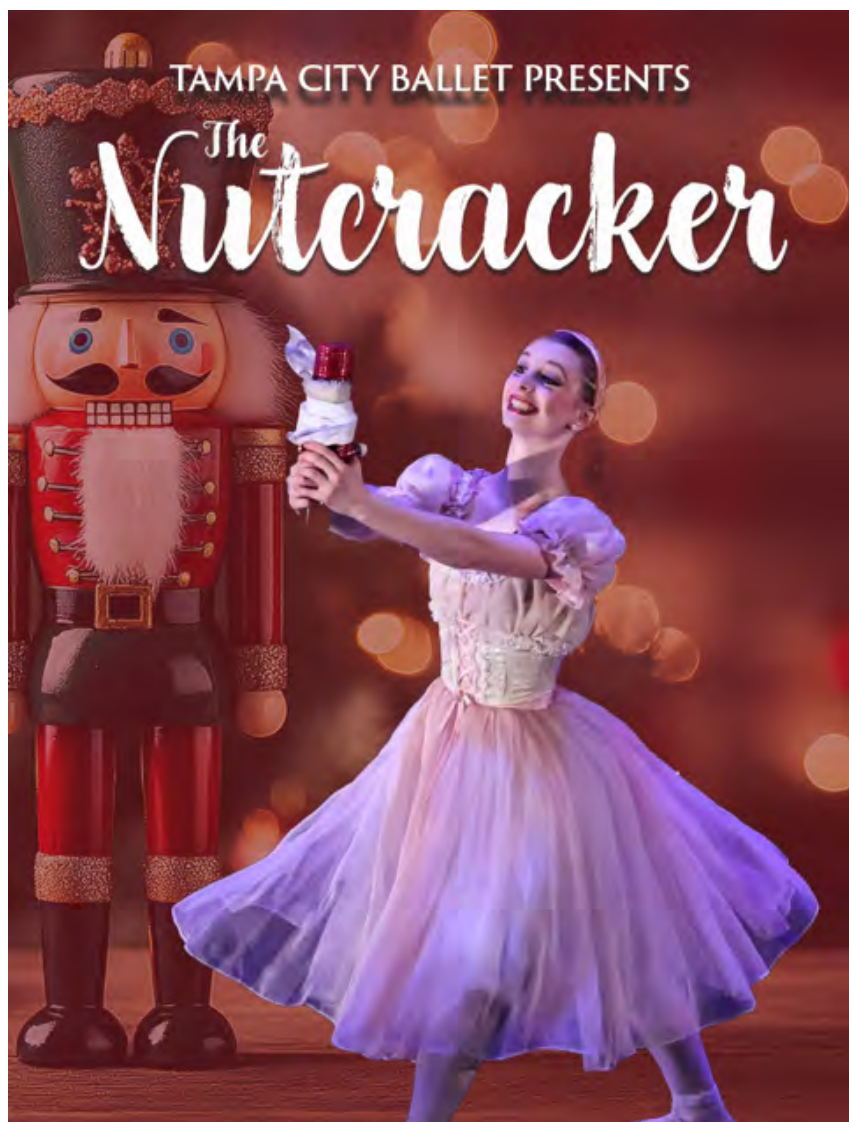


**New Tampa Performing Arts Center
November 14, 15 & 16, 2025**

Step into the magic as Tampa City Ballet's Cinderella bursts to life with dazzling dance, captivating theater, and joy for the whole family.

Tickets available now:

tampacityballet.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F22718



TAMPA CITY BALLET PRESENTS

The Nutcracker

University of South Florida - December 6, 7 & 9, 2025
New Tampa Performing Arts Center - Dec. 12, 13 & 14, 2025

The Nutcracker performances rings in the holiday season as a long-held tradition celebrated around the world. In the Tampa Bay Area, TCB brings together audiences of all ages to participate in this family event.

Tickets available now:

tampacityballet.org/the-nutcracker-abs

RICHARD HARNER & CLAUDIA PARVANTA

CONGRATULATE AND SUPPORT

TAMPA CITY BALLET

7 YEARS OF

CONTRIBUTION TO DANCE
AND CULTURE

THANK YOU!

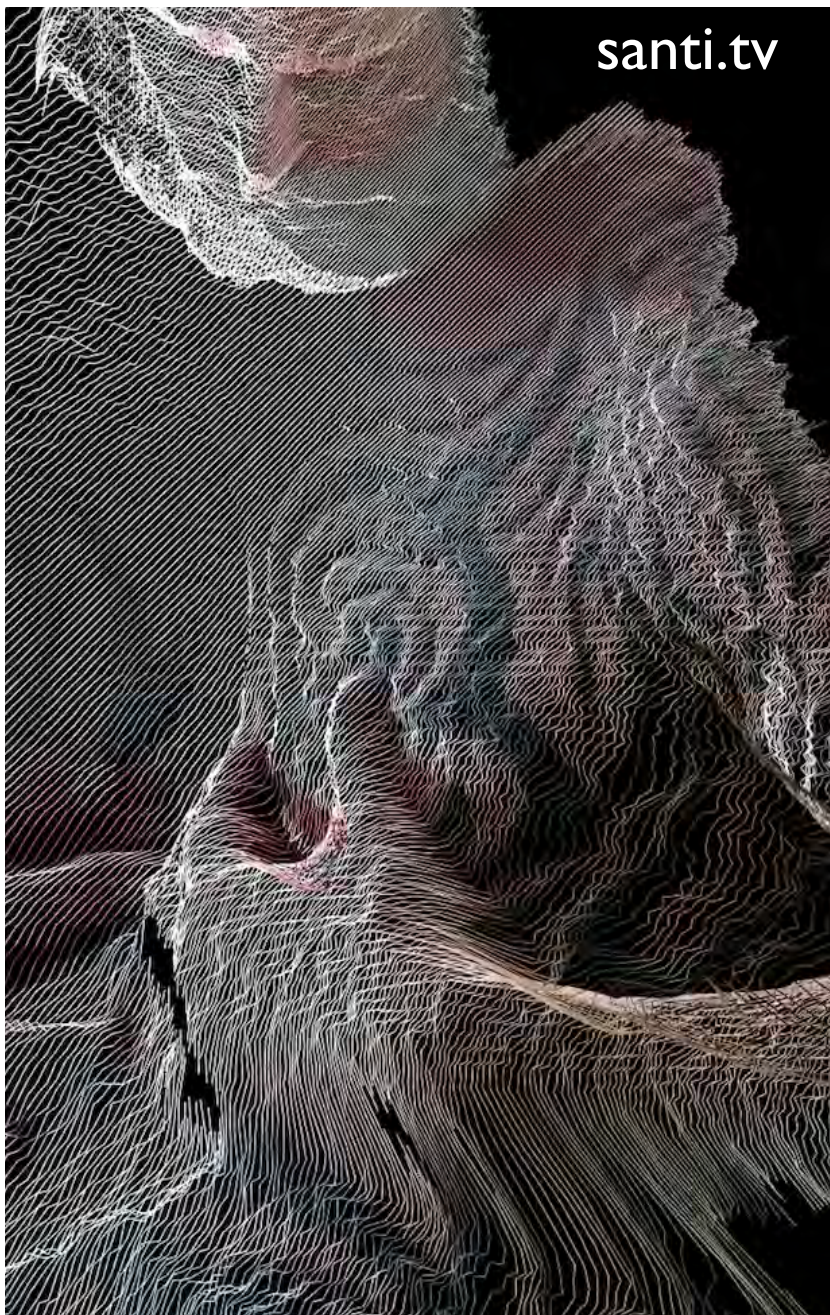


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DENTAL CARE

at Hunters Green

dentalcareathuntersgreen.com



Your opinion is very important to us!

Please fill this survey after the show:

tampacityballet.wufoo.com/forms/r19njz62lgpk5cg

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous donors for their unwavering support. Your contributions not only bring our vision to life but also help us inspire and uplift through the art of ballet. This season's performances are a testament to your belief in the transformative power of the arts.

A special thank you to our *Platinum Sponsors*, whose extraordinary generosity makes our most ambitious productions possible. Your commitment to our company elevates the art form and ensures ballet continues to flourish for future generations in Tampa Bay. Thank you for being an essential part of our creative journey.



SUPPORT

Your investment in Tampa's cultural blueprint keeps our dancers on stage, our outreach programs thriving, and the magic of dance alive. There are several ways in which you can support TCB: become our Friend with a monthly contribution, make a donation, or become one of our official Sponsors.

For more information please visit

tampacityballet.org/ways-support

Let's build something lasting—together!!

Tampa City Ballet is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status, so your contribution is deductible according to U.S. tax laws.