'The Nutcracker' coming to The Brooks Center

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — It's a holiday staple that community members jump at the opportunity to see, and this year will be no different.

Ginny Siano-Eck, director of the Foothills Conservatory for the Performing Arts, is proud to announce that the 2011 version of "The Nutcracker" at The Brooks Center will not disappoint.

Joined by famed members of the Boston Ballet, the hard work put into this year's show will be powerful on stage.

On Saturday and Sunday, The Brooks Center stage will erupt with holiday happiness as the performance will leave audience members with chills.

Dancers of all ages round out the show and the talent behind the production is immense.

According to Siano-Eck, this year is going to be stronger than ever.

Perhaps the most popular of all ballets, "The Nutcracker" offers a memorable family tradition for celebrating the holidays.

"We are honored to announce that two of the lead principals of Boston Ballet will join our cast. Pavel Gurevich will return for the seventh year and joining him as the Sugar Plum will be Lia Cirio. The Prince will be Ryan Clawson from North Carolina Dance Theatre in Charlotte. Our founding choreographer, Rhonda Murray, has returned to choreograph 'Waltz of the Flowers.' Rhonda is currently teaching dance at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville," she said.

These guest artists will join dancers from Oconee and Pickens counties to help bring this time-honored classic to life under the artistic direction of Siano-Eck. Before and during the intermission of Saturday evening's production, there will be performances from the Daniel High School Strings' Ensemble and the Seneca High School Madrigal Singers. The Clemson University Tiger will be in the lobby greeting guests at Sunday's matinee performance.

"Come join us," she added. "It's going to be a memorable show."

Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased by visiting The Brooks Center Box Office or by calling (864) 656-RSVP (7787), Monday [illegible]day, 1 to 5 p.m. Tick[illegible]available online [illegible]nson.edu/Brooks. [illegible]ailability, tickets [illegible]on the day of the [illegible]or adults and $12 [illegible]and children.

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The Foothills Conservatory for the Performing Arts will present its 2011 performances of "The Nutcracker" at The Brooks Center on Saturday and Sunday.