

# Another Nutcracker Season



## Nutcracker 2016

For the past six years we have kicked off the holiday season with the Nutcracker. The Philharmonic Nutcracker with Oklahoma City Ballet was performed Thanksgiving weekend at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs. Kevin, Alea, Samuel, Faith and Adam were performing again this year. Mom, Starci and Stephanie were back stage helpers. Kevin was asked to play the role of Grandpa for the last time. Kevin has aged out and it will be a new company next year. This was Kevin's last season performing with the Philharmonic Nutcracker. He will definitely be missed. He is such a good performer and an awesome stage dad. Alea had two roles; Grandma and a soldier. As Grandma she performs a brief solo dance with Drosselmeyer. Faith also had dual roles this year as a party girl and a little soldier. The little soldier jumps out of a drum and is in command of the big soldiers. This was a solo part for Faith. Samuel was Chinese. He was on stage making the Chinese dragon dance. Adam was the part of the Page. He went on at the beginning of the Land of Sweets and heralds the trumpets for the entrance of all the goodies.





When all four shows are complete they have an ornament exchange and goodies in studio Bee. In celebration of a show well done and to say good-bye to all the performers until next season. This was the third and final year for Oklahoma City ballet.



We have so much fun during the show. We really like the seamstress team, Dayna and Morgan. We always spoil them with goodies while they are in town. They are really easy to work with, very patient and good with the kids. For instance, when Samuel forgot his white tights he was pretty upset, until Morgan saved the day. He gave Samuel a pair of the principals tights that were not being used. That cleared the tears, brought a smile to his face.

Thank you Morgan for saving the day.

Now that this Nutcracker is in complete it's time to officially kick in for the Christmas Season to begin...

On Wednesday, November 23, 2016, Nutcracker rehearsals did not begin until 7:00pm. Therefore we decided to take advantage of the day and pick up our Christmas tree from Harding Nursery. Steven was in town so he drove the van with the trailer hooked up. We hung out at the nursery for awhile looking at ornaments and greenery which put us in a festive mood. Then we drove the van to the location where they had our tree stored. It took 5 of their guys to load it on to the trailer.





The tree had to stay on the trailer until after our Thanksgiving meal. This year Steven was planning on killing a home grown turkey...all this took place while people were still nestled all snug in their beds or watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade...

## **THANKSGIVING DAY 2016**

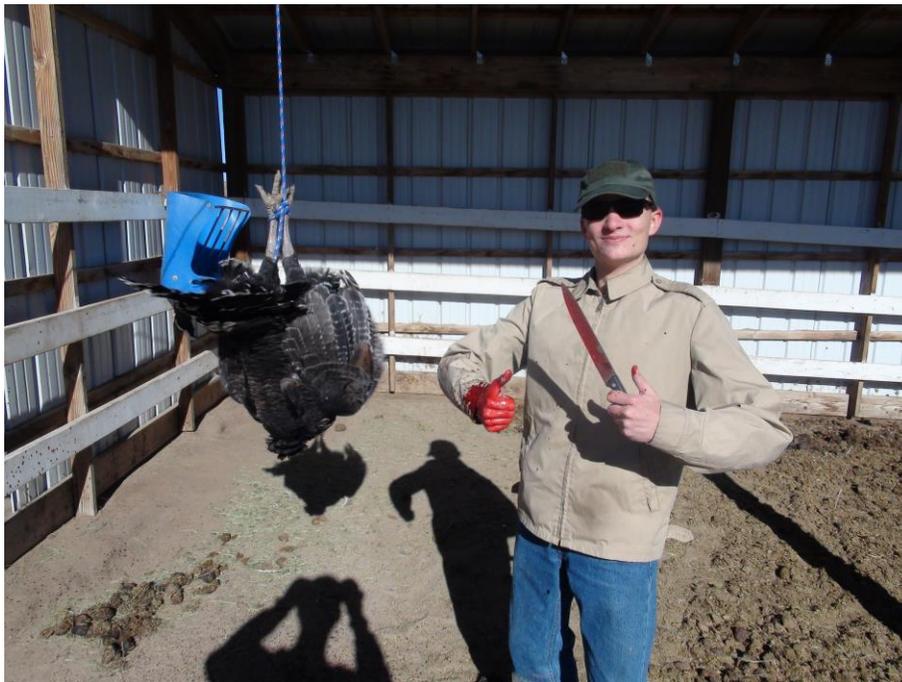
### **How to Prepare a Thanksgiving Turkey Scheffler style:**



**Step 1: catch the turkey and hang it by the feet**  
(Isaac was chosen for the task this year)



**Step 2: Cut of the Turkey's head!**  
(if you look closely, the head is on the ground by Isaac's foot)



**Step 3: Wash your coat, knife and hands before  
going to step four....**



**Step 4: Soak Turkey**  
(Kevin's Job)



**Step 6: De-feather body and chop off feet.**  
(Kevin and Steven)



**Step 7: Remove the inward parts**



**Step 8: Make sure nothing was left behind, like a watch or ring, lungs, gizzards or maybe the heart?**



**Step 9: Another rinse to drain remaining blood.**



**Step 10: Prepare bird for baking.**

## Organic or Butterball... Can you tell the difference?



Adam prepared the potatoes for dinner.



### THANKSGIVING FEAST!

Emily Bryant joined the family for dinner. After our Thanksgiving Feast it was time to bring the tree in. Jeff and Jackson came by around 7:00pm to lend a helping hand for the tree lifting.

Hmmmm...in case you are wondering how to raise a 24 foot Christmas tree...





Preparing to lift the tree entails 5 teams. 3 teams of 2 with ropes at different angles (2 on the floor level and one group on the bridge) this is to keep the tree steady and from falling as it is being lifted. The next group of two are the tree walkers. They are responsible for pushing the tree up to a vertical position, while the final team (and most dangerous) is responsible for getting the tree stump in the tree stand and securing the boards to the base of the tree. This is a fine tuned process thanks to Bob's genius!

Here we go...1...2...3...LIFT!!!



Now that it's up how do you decorate a 24 foot tree? One foot at a time...First you perform in the Philharmonic Nutcracker and when you come home the lights have magically appeared on the tree and the scaffolding is already built so it's as easy as 1,2,3, climb up the scaffolding and start putting ornaments on...



Another tradition we have on Thanksgiving is opening up our annual ornaments from Mom. She has been giving all the kids ornaments since her first Christmas with Daddy. Every ornament has a special story. Each year she picks ornaments that have to do with whatever the kids interest is for that particular year.





Another tradition we have is building Gingerbread houses with Grannie. Papa and Grannie have celebrated Thanksgiving with us every year since we moved here...Then in 2013 after Papa went to be with Jesus, Grannie continued the tradition by still celebrating with us. She is truly a blessing!





Tree is finally completely decorated and the gifts from Grannie have been placed under the tree. Our tradition is to open presents from Grannie on Christmas Eve, because that is her birthday. Since she is not in town to celebrate on her birthday, that is our way of celebrating her.